

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INSIDE



Remembering

A total of 155 members of the Micronesia Repatriation Association of Okinawa arrived on island and held its 35th Peace Memorial Service at the Okinawa tower of the Last Command Post in Marpi yesterday in honor of those who served and died during World War II.

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Somber Memorial

More than 800 U.S. service members have died in Iraq, and because most of the casualties were after May 2003, this Memorial Day will be a more somber one.

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Messy Count

Congress prepared Monday for a potentially explosive count of May 10 presidential ballots, with camps of both incumbent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and film star Fernando Poe Jr. claiming victory and issuing threats if their candidate is cheated out of a win.

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Businesses slowing down in the last four years

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The business gross revenue of the Northern Marianas continues to spiral down in the last four years as government revenue decreased and government operating costs increase. Of the numbers, only remittances continue to stabilize in the last five years.

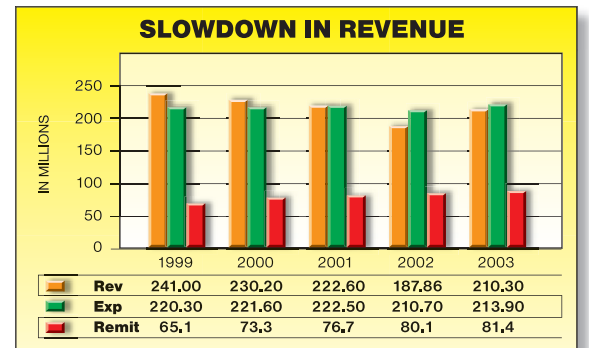
Based on a Department of Com-

merce report, the BGR increased by 1.89 percent from \$2.213 billion in 1999 to \$2.255 billion in 2000. A year later, however, business receipts and sales dropped by 6.11 percent to \$2.117 billion (2001). By 2002, sales and receipts revenue went down by another 6.9 percent to \$196.9 million and continued to drop by another 2.7 percent in 2003 to \$191.4 million.

As CNMI's BGR spiraled down,

the CNMI revenue sources declined with it. From \$241 million revenue in 1999, collections in 2000 went down by 8 percent to \$230.2 million. In 2001, revenue collections continued to slip by another 3 percent to \$222.6 million. By 2002, government revenue was at \$187.86 million—a 15-percent decrease from the figure posted in 2001. Government managed to put

See BUSINESS on Page 8



NMI population at 78,252

Census sees slowdown in NMI population growth

By JOHN RAVELO and
EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTERS

The CNMI now has a population of about 78,252, which represents a mere 0.026 percent of the entire U.S. population of 293,376,231—or a minute 0.001 percent of the world's approximately over-6.369 billion population.

Population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau's International Data Base indicate that the CNMI's population is not likely to increase significantly in the next four decades. The IDB is a computerized source of demographic and socio-economic statistics for 227 countries and areas of the world.

By 2010, the Census Bureau projected the CNMI population to reach 90,677 at a growth rate of 2.6 percent.

The IDB estimate shows that local population during the period 2040-2050 may just be around 143,132. Population growth rate during this period would decrease further to 0.7 percent.

See NMI on Page 8



SHAN SEMAN

IN MEMORIAM

A woman plants a U.S. flag during yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Susupe. The ceremony was geared toward honoring and remembering fallen heroes, veterans, and current individuals serving in the military, ensuring freedom and liberty.

CUC payables to CDA reach \$150M

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has registered some \$150 million in payables mainly to the Commonwealth Development Authority, involving four unpaid notes and related accrued interests.

In a financial report submitted recently to the CUC Board of Directors, CUC said that it has been in default of the

repayment of four notes to CDA totaling about \$61.6 million, plus related accrued interests totaling about \$81.2 million.

In addition, CUC has two long-term debts totaling \$7.2 million: \$7.002 million with Telesource for a 10-megawatt power plant on Tinian and a \$203,000 debt with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development for water projects on Saipan.

CUC said the CDA payables consist

of four sets of loans: \$30 million; \$16.1 million; \$5.5 million; and \$10 million.

CUC said that, in light of an internal control audit findings, it requested a legal opinion to determine if CUC is in fact liable to repay the \$10 million, which is considered a loan but is an unsigned agreement.

As of March 31, 2004, CUC said that it has a working capital deficiency of

See CUC on Page 8

Tribune's Dones wins RP award

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office on Saipan has named Saipan Tribune reporter Liberty Dones as one of the recipients of this year's "10 Outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers in the CNMI."

Dones has spent three years of nearly a decade of journalism work in the CNMI, covering significant is-

See TRIBUNE on Page 8



Local

NMIRF board OKs RFP for GHI consultant

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees has approved the issuance of a Request for Proposal for the hiring of a consultant to work on the entry of health insurance carriers under a privatized Group Health and Life Insurance program.

“The RFP will be out soon for the consultant to draft the RFP for health insurance carriers to partake in the process,” said Fund board chair Joseph Reyes.

He said the consultant is expected to provide a set of guidelines that health insurance carriers need to

comply with to accommodate the needs of CNMI members.

“The board has moved to privatize the program but the process really takes time,” he said.

Right now, he said, the Fund is working on a transition program, which he admitted is not adequate yet.

This is why the board opted to seek the contract extension of Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral up to December this year, he said. HPMR’s contract expires on July 31.

“Government process takes time. We’re very careful in doing things. There are procurement rules to follow, etc,” said Reyes.

The board recently decided to terminate its contract with HPMR, its third party administrator for the Fund’s Group Health Insurance, as part of its goal to privatize the program.

This followed a letter from Gov. Juan N. Babauta in March this year, pushing for the privatization of the health insurance program. The governor said he favors a private, cafeteria-style health insurance program for government employees and retirees.

The governor’s proposal allows subscribers to choose their health insurance providers.

This happens when the government solicits bids from

private health insurance providers, in which a group of three or more would be selected.

The administration had hoped to have such conversion ready before the end of the HPMR contract in July.

If that deadline is not met, the governor had suggested that the board take over the management of the government health insurance program “with your in-house resources for the relatively short period until the new

system is fully operational.”

Right now, the Fund said that it is tapping an in-house team, but it also needs to temporarily retain the services of HPMR to avoid putting the whole program at risk.



CASSIE DLG FEJERAN
Laura Ouimette recognizes a graduate during the ceremony at the Saipan International School.

Saipan International School graduates wait for their names to be called on stage.

CASSIE DLG FEJERAN

18 SIS Kindergarten pupils graduate

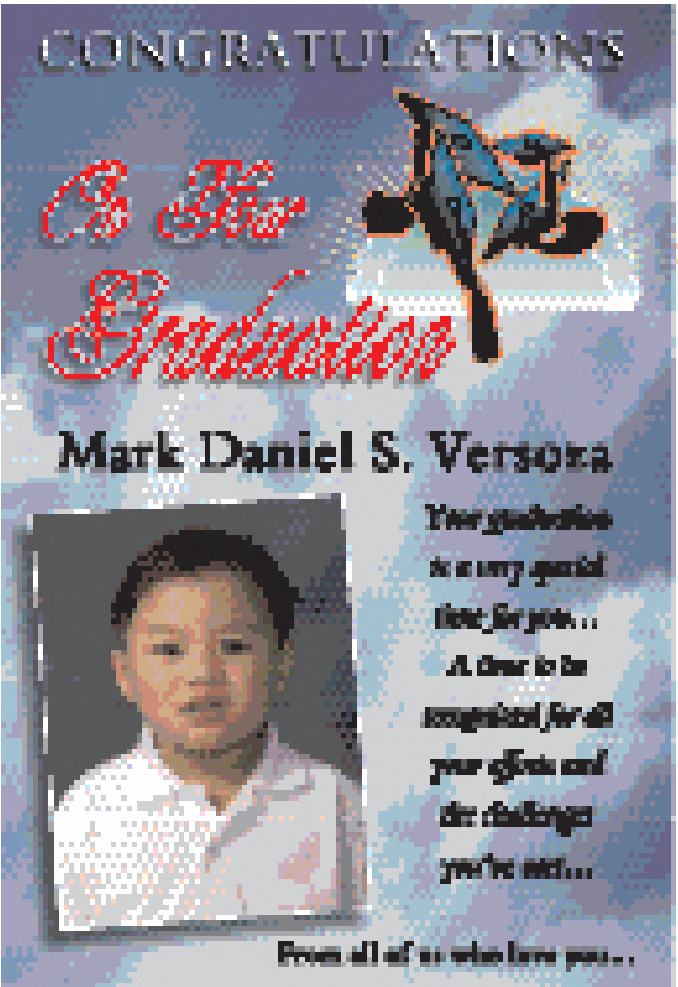
By CASSIE DLG FEJERAN
REPORTER

Wearing black graduation caps and gowns, 18 Kindergarten pupils from the Saipan International School received promotion certificates during the school’s graduation ceremony early Sunday evening.

With parents, family members, school officials, and friends looking on, the pupils displayed a mix of childlike determination and youthful liveliness as they received their certificates—a requisite to advance to the next education level.

SIS first grade teacher Laura Ouimette recognized each graduate during the ceremony, announcing the accomplishments of each student as they marched on the stage. Ouimette also recognized how the graduates have made a difference in the lives of teachers and peers.

A dinner right after the brief ceremony provided parents and teachers the opportunity to converse about the students’ accomplishments during their Kindergarten year.



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COMMUNITY

Briefs

Meeting for Chuukese citizens in NMI

This is to inform all Chuukese citizens in the CNMI that there would be a meeting today at the Carolinian Utt at 7 pm. Your presence and time would be greatly appreciated.

DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All Community Public Water Systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

Pag-IBIG refunds available

Pag-IBIG overseas program members from 1996-to January 1998 can now apply for a refund of their total contributions plus the 3-percent dollar interest tax-free.

"Just fill out a refund application form and you will receive your refund in U.S. dollars. After getting your refund, you can be a member again by submitting a new pop membership form and contribute a minimum of \$5.00 per month," according to a Pag-IBIG statement.

For a minimum contribution of \$5 a month, former members can also activate their Pag-IBIG membership also in the Philippines using the same Pag-IBIG ID number.

"Your contribution will be converted into Philippine pesos using the current conversion rate and it will earn a 7.5-percent peso interest. After 25 to 30 years from your initial contribution, you are entitled to a refund in Philippine peso of all your contribution including interest tax-free," the agency said.

For more information, call the Pop Saipan Office at 235-4749 or visit the Pop Office at the ground floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe and look for information officer Lynell F. Fulgencio.

NMC English placement tests

Following is the schedule of our upcoming English Placement Tests:

Thursday	July 29	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	July 30	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm
Thursday	November 4	Room D-1	1pm-4pm
Friday	November 5	Room D-1	5:30pm-8:30pm

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am-4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment-a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee.

All students seeking a degree and/or certificate are required to take the English placement test.

Residential, biz inspections in Kagman II village

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health would like to inform the residents of Kagman II village that On-site Disposal System and premise compliance inspections would be conducted on residential and business facilities. The inspections has been ongoing since April 21, 2004 and will continue to be conducted every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kagman II residents are requested to cooperate with inspectors in keeping their dog(s) on a leash, for the safety of the inspectors. Both BEH and DEQ inspectors are required to wear their respective uniforms and photo identification during all inspections.

For additional information on the OSDS inspections, contact the BEH office at 664-4870/2 or the DEQ office at 664-8500/1.

Victim hotline volunteers sought

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to help out our community? Are you interested in issues such as domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, rape, or suicide?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you may be the right kind of person to become a Victim Hotline Volunteer. The Victim Hotline is a 24/7 telephone crisis intervention hotline that provides access to information, referral, and a listening ear to victims of crimes in the Northern Marianas.

Interested individuals may contact Velma Del Rosario at 234-5100.

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High Court denies rehearing of murder case

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied a defendant’s petition for the rehearing of a murder case due to the participation of associate justice John Manglona, maintaining that the High Court followed proper procedures.

In a May 27 order, the Supreme Court said that defendant-appellant Eugene Repeki Jr., et. al, “misinterpreted the CNMI Constitution and applicable Commonwealth Code sections and rests his argument on the untenable grounds that recusal is mandatory without regard for the interests of justice or the discretion of the justice.”

The appellant had argued that his rights were violated by the signing of an opinion by two of the three justices that comprised the panel.

These included Justices Alexandro Castro, Pedro M. Atalig (pro tempore), and Manglona.

Chief Justice Miguel Demapan recused himself from the case and designated Atalig as justice pro tempore for the appeal, which was filed in June 2002.

Manglona abstained from signing the opinion, which was released in January 2003, two months after his spouse,

Ramona V. Manglona, was appointed attorney general.

The appellant asked for a rehearing of the case on the argument that Justice Manglona improperly abstained from signing the opinion, and that such action is in direct violation of the Constitution and the Commonwealth Code.

Repeki, who was imposed a 30-year jail term, appealed the decision on May 31, 2001.

Oral arguments took place in June 2002, and in July 2002, Demapan recused himself from the case, leaving the two associate justices and Atalig to handle the case.

In Nov. 2002, associate justice Manglona’s wife, Ramona was sworn in as attorney general.

On Jan. 14, 2003, the High Court issued its opinion, which was signed only by Castro and Atalig.

On Jan. 28, Repeki filed a petition for a rehearing.

In the May 27 decision, signed by Manglona, Atalig, and Castro, the High Court said it is clear that the Commonwealth Constitution and statutory scheme require at least three justices to hear and determine an appeal.

“Here, three justices heard and determined the appeal so there is no violation of the constitutional mandate,” they said.

Further, they said that the statutory requirement that a concurrence of two justices is necessary to establish a majority opinion was met as Castro and Atalig were in agreement.

They also said that the Commonwealth Code states that a judge or justice shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might be reasonably questioned.

Also, the Code provides that a justice shall disqualify himself when his spouse is acting as a lawyer in the proceeding, or his spouse has an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding.

“Simply put, Justice Manglona did not disqualify himself because he believed that his impartiality could not be reasonably questioned based on the fact that his spouse became attorney general after oral arguments concluded. Further, the decision whether a judge’s impartiality can ‘reasonably be questioned’ is to be made in light of the facts as they exist, and not as they are surmised or reported to be,” the decision said.

The court said that justice Manglona’s participation in the case happened before Nov. 2002 when his spouse became the attorney general.

As attorney general, she was responsible for providing legal advise to the governor and the executive departments, representing the CNMI in all legal matters, and prosecuting violations of the Commonwealth law.

The appellant had argued that since Justice Manglona is married to the attorney general, he should have immediately recused himself from ‘reconsidering, in any capacity, all cases in which the Commonwealth is a party represented by the AGO, including his case.

The High Court said that what the appellant failed to note was the rules are applied prospectively using a reasonableness standard and that Justice Manglona did not recuse himself because he both heard and determined the case

as a member of the panel prior to the swearing in of attorney general Manglona.

The court said that the Attorney General’s Office normally takes no other action until the opinion is issued.

Further, the court said that recusal was not warranted because attorney general Manglona did not work on the appellant’s trial in the lower court or in preparation for the appeal.

“For Justice Manglona to recuse himself retroactively, as appellant demands here, in a case that was complete but for the issuance of the written opinion, would do a disservice to the Commonwealth as the judicial resources invested in the case to that point would be lost,” the ruling said.

But to be clear, it said that

a justice should not hesitate to recuse himself or herself simply because time and effort have been expended.

Further, the court noted that the appellant did not file a motion to disqualify justice Manglona in the two months between attorney general Manglona’s swearing-in and the High Court’s issuance of the opinion.

Repeki was found guilty in December 2000 of murder in the second degree in connection with the slaying of a 40-year-old contract worker, a security guard at a commercial building in Chalan Kanoa in 1999.

Police investigation said the Repeki was one of the three men who took turns hitting the victim with a two-foot stand that fractured the victim’s skull.



ESTEEMED GUEST

Mr. Miyazawa, left, was a recent guest at the Hotel Nikko Saipan. Here, he poses with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Mr. Fujita, general manager of Hotel Nikko Saipan, at the Benkay Restaurant of the hotel.

Mr. Fujita and Mayor Tudela pose for a souvenir shot.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

daiichi summer club

Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Fixing foreign aid

In March 2002, President Bush announced an expansion and renovation of U.S. foreign assistance. He proposed the Millennium Challenge Account, which would ultimately channel to poor countries \$5 billion a year, a sum that would reflect a 50 percent expansion in existing aid programs. The new money would be spent in a new way: It would go to a short list of countries with sound policies, rather than being spread around dozens of places where corruption or political disorder undermines progress. Two years on, Bush's idea is not attracting the funding that he talked of. But his initiative has created an improved model for U.S. foreign assistance.

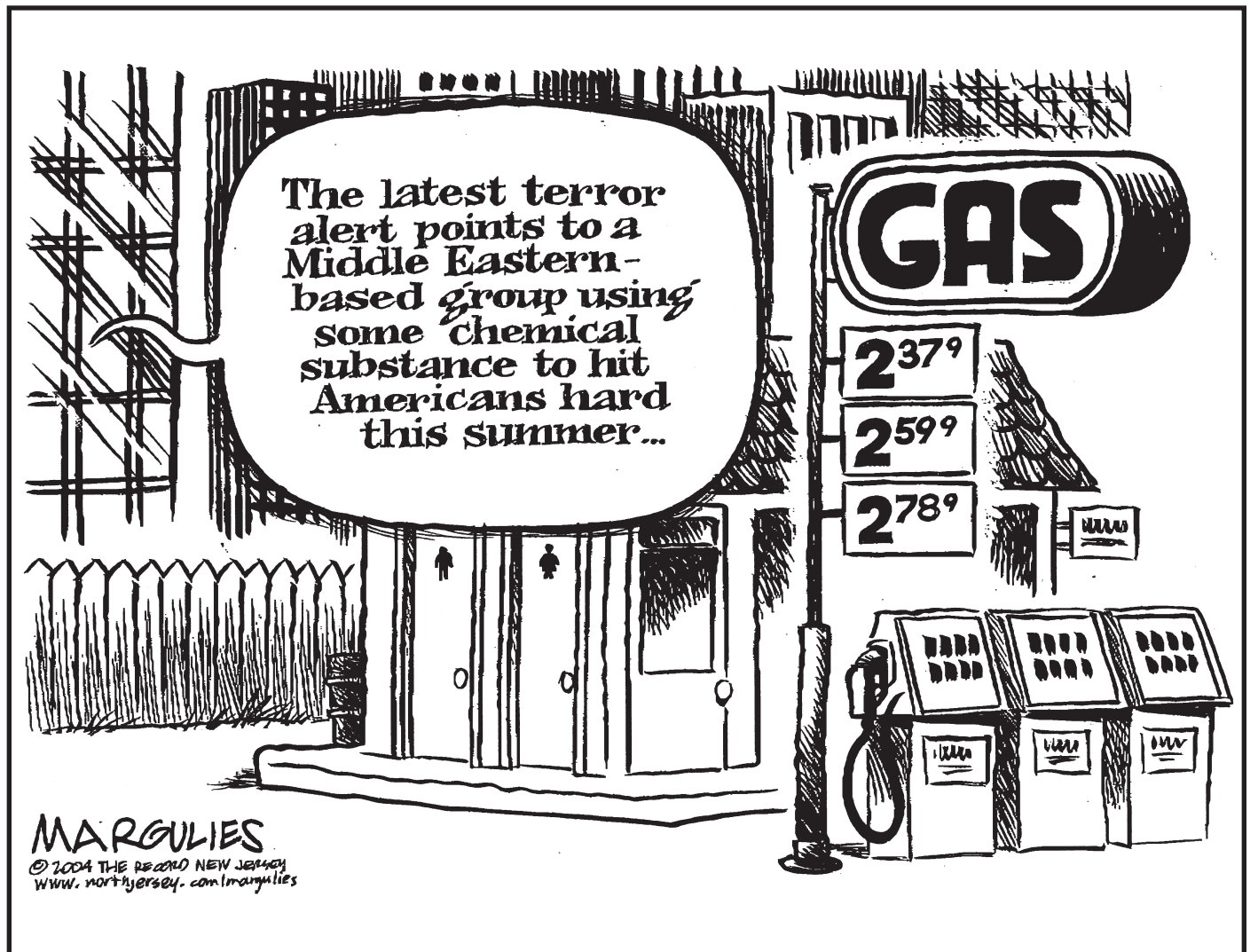
The new model works by measuring the quality of poor countries' policies in three areas. The first concerns governance: Do citizens have civil and political rights? How bad is corruption? Is the government effective? The second category is investment in people, particularly in immunization, other health programs and primary schooling. The third is the quality of economic policy, measured partly by indicators like the inflation rate but also by the number of days it takes to start a business and "regulatory quality." The Challenge Corp., the government entity formed to administer the new aid program, has measured 77 poor countries against these benchmarks. The top 16 have been invited to apply for grants.

Nobody pretends that these measurements are perfect; quantifying the "rule of law" is tricky. But the indicators are nonetheless the best available: They have been taken from respected outside institutions, such as the World Bank and Freedom House. Some might wonder, for example, why Armenia, a country with poor political and civil rights, was chosen, but Armenia's strong scores in economic management, rule of law and "government effectiveness" suggest that aid dollars will be well spent there. Why did Uganda and Vietnam, two development stars of the 1990s, fail to make the grade? Because their political scores were even worse than Armenia's.

The question now is how the aid will be spent in the selected countries. High-performing poor countries tend to be the darlings of donors, so finding worthwhile projects may be a challenge. One solution may be to stay away from health and education, which attract the most outside backing, and go for power, water and roads. But infrastructure projects require engineering studies, environmental assessments, social-impact evaluation—in short, they take time to get off the ground. Another solution may be to pour money into government budgets, so that the quality of government personnel and spending is strengthened, but this approach may not appeal to Congress, which likes backing discrete projects.

Supporters of the Millennium Challenge Account worry that it is underfunded. When he laid out his plan two years ago, Bush said he wanted \$1.6 billion in the current year, double that in 2005 and then \$5 billion a year thereafter. Instead, Congress appropriated \$1 billion for the current year, and the administration has requested only \$2.5 billion for next year; the eventual \$5 billion target seems distant. But the chief danger to Bush's project is that, to wring money from Congress, his administration will make unrealistic promises about how quickly aid can be disbursed and how measurable the results will be. That will only breed cynicism when the promises go unfulfilled. Fighting poverty takes patience.

2004, The Washington Post



Social physics may offer insight to everyday issues

By PHILIP BALL

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Scientists can now tell us how stars burn and how cells reproduce, but are we any closer to understanding how society works? Or is "social science" still an oxymoron?

Perhaps we should first ask whether, even if a scientific theory of society were possible, it's something we really want. Such ideas are often floated at the scarier extremes of the left and right, where they acquire a totalitarian odor. The earliest attempt to create a "physics of society," by Thomas Hobbes in the 17th century, is not a good advertisement. Hobbes used Galileo's physics to argue that the best society is a monarchical dictatorship.

But there is a long tradition that associates a rationalistic social science with Enlightenment liberalism: John Locke, Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill shared the belief that there are "natural laws" governing society, and that these might be uncovered by systematic enquiry, just as Isaac Newton divined the laws that direct the planets.

That tradition is now back in fashion—and this time there's some heavy-duty science going into it. Researchers from a recondite and hitherto underpublicized discipline called statistical physics are bringing their formidable theoretical tools and computational techniques to bear on issues that seem a long way from physics: voting procedures, the waxing and waning of the economy, traffic flow and pedestrian motion, the demographics of marriage and crime, the conflict of nations.

If this seems a mite hubristic, it is important to appreciate that the modern "social physics" is not what it was in the 19th century when the French philosopher Auguste Comte coined the term. Although these early efforts—even that of Hobbes—were motivated by a sincere wish to make the world a better place, they displayed a deterministic tendency that subjugated or denied the role of free will.

In contrast, today's statistical social physics embraces the idea that we are at liberty to make choices. It shows that mathematical, law-like statistical regularities can still emerge (and the data show that they do) from a mass of individuals who are free to choose.

In part, however, this reflects the often very limited range of the choices we actually employ. After all, if we are driving a car, we can, in principle, steer it anywhere at any speed, but of course we don't. Left to our own devices, we still tend to drive on the right-hand side at a speed roughly appropriate to the context. Here and elsewhere, we are far more predictable than we like to believe. And the new physics of society reveals that our freedom is constrained not just by laws and conventions but by the effects of interactions with fellow citizens.

Traffic flow is a good illustration of these principles in action.

Interactions between individuals arise here primarily because they all aim to avoid collisions. This makes us responsive to what the vehicle ahead does. The result—distinct types of flow such as regularly spaced waves of congestion—is relatively simple but also nonintuitive; it can't easily be deduced from the behavior of individual drivers.

Traffic also seems to display abrupt switches in flow that bear a close similarity to "phase transitions" in physics. Such transitions—ice melting, for example—demonstrate that in systems of many interacting components, things often stay unchanged until some influence reaches a certain threshold that suddenly flips the system into a new mode of behavior.

Some physics-based models of the spread of crime show such jumps in the proportion of criminally active individuals when influences such as the severity of the criminal justice system are altered gradually. Sudden changes in crime rates, for example, in the "clean-up" of New York City in the mid-1990s were among the phenomena explored by Malcolm Gladwell in "The Tipping Point." Gladwell suggested that the shifts were comparable to the spread of epidemics. But perhaps physics, rather than biology, provides the best framework for understanding them.

Social physics does tend to brush away some romantic illusions about a free society. The statistics of democratic elections, for instance, indicate that they are not simply determined by the sum of independent choices among the electorate. Instead, they show a mathematical pattern that physicists recognize as the signature of systems of strongly interacting components, which is to say that choices are not independent but highly interdependent. Our choices are influenced by many elements—our friends and neighbors, for example—and physicists have found that strongly interacting systems like this are prone to "avalanches," so that even tiny influences may engender big effects. Might, say, media bias in campaigns be even more of a factor than we think?

As we uncover more of the "interaction rules" underlying social phenomena, we should be able to predict the effect of changing those rules and thus formulate public policies more likely to achieve their objectives. We might be able to design better driving regulations; more ambitiously, we might hope to gauge such things as the effects of regulations on the performance of economic markets.

That is the potential value of a physics of society: Rather than persuading us that things must be the way they are, it could show us the best way to reach a goal. Of course, science cannot tell us what that goal should be; there we must appeal to our sense of justice, equality and ethical values. That, perhaps, is the hardest part.

Ball is the author of Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another.

US should offer a deal to N. Korea

By **DANIEL PONEMAN** and **ROBERT GALLUCCI**
Special to the Los Angeles

Every day, North Korea increases its nuclear capabilities—and the price it will demand to give them up. Yet the White House continues to insist that Pyongyang accept all U.S. objectives before any real deal can be offered to the North. That's a mistake.

Facing no penalties for defiance or rewards for compliance, Pyongyang has no reason to back down. And hoping the regime will implode before it triggers a nuclear disaster gambles recklessly with global security.

A decade ago, the United States faced a similar problem. By 1993, North Korea could produce and separate its own plutonium and was building two larger reactors that could have lifted its bomb-making capacity to industrial scale. It then declared that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Then, as now, North Korea had a brutal, failing regime. Then, as now, the U.S. faced no good options: allow North Korea to build nuclear weapons but try to deter their use; use military force against its nuclear facilities; or seek a diplomatic solution with an untrustworthy regime.

Unlike deterrence, diplomacy offered a chance to slow Pyongyang's nuclear program and was needed to build international support for stronger measures, including force. So the United States engaged in a broad multilateral effort, including direct negotiations with North Korea.

After 18 months of diplomacy, increased military muscle in South Korea, threats of U.N. sanctions and the intervention of former President Carter, North Korea froze its plutonium production program and eventually agreed to dismantle it, all under monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Without that freeze, Pyongyang would by now have amassed an arsenal of nearly 100 nuclear warheads.

Of course, the story didn't have a happy ending. North Korea cheated on its pledges by secretly obtaining uranium enrichment technology. When confronted in 2002 by the United States, it kicked out the inspectors and later abandoned the nonproliferation treaty. Pyongyang has boasted that it has reprocessed all 8,000 of its spent fuel rods; its erstwhile supplier, Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, claims to have seen North Korean nuclear weapons.

So why should we offer Pyongyang another deal? Can diplomacy now advance U.S. interests? Three lessons from the last Korean nuclear crisis might help find a way.

- Go after the bomb material. Sept. 11 showed that Cold War doctrines of containment and deterrence won't work. U.S. diplomats must go after the North Korean program urgently, not just watch it crank out bomb-grade material as they negotiate about how to negotiate.

- Present a clear choice. We should offer the North security assurances and energy assistance if it verifiably gives up its nuclear program under more ambitious monitoring than in 1994. As with Libya, showing a path to improved relations could prove pivotal. We should also tell the North that failure to accept that offer will result in international sanctions, and enlist the Chinese and other key players to help enforce them.

- Design a package that leaves us better off, even if Pyongyang cheats. No one can be confident that North Korea won't cheat, but the 1994 deal did buy a verified, eight-year moratorium on plutonium production. The point is not to trust but to verify while ensuring that Pyongyang never gets what it really wants until we do.

Continued diplomatic wheel-spinning just buys Pyongyang time to build more bombs. As President Bush has said, we cannot remain idle while dangers gather.

Poneman and Gallucci served in the administrations of George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, with responsibilities for U.S. nuclear nonproliferation policy. They are coauthors of "Going Critical: The First North Korean Nuclear Crisis" (Brookings, 2004).

Balancing political interests is not a science

"In this administration, science strongly informs policy," insists the president's science adviser, John Marburger, but a letter signed by more than 60 renowned scientists claims that "the administration has often manipulated the process through which science enters its decisions," while a report from the advocacy group the Union of Concerned Scientists asserts that "the current Bush administration has suppressed or distorted the scientific analyses of federal agencies."

Recent transgressions include the May 6 decision by the Food and Drug Administration to forbid over-the-counter sales of a new morning-after pill, ignoring the advice of a panel of technical experts, and a February decision by President Bush to replace two members of his Council on Bioethics, including a prominent biochemist, with people more ideologically compatible with his personal views.

Well ... yes. We all know that the current White House thinks that protecting embryos is more important than protecting the environment and that the profitability of chemical companies should take precedence over the potability of drinking water. No surprise here. But even if the manipulation of science at the hands of the Bush government is more egregious than in previous administrations, the real problem is the illusion that these controversies can and should be resolved scientifically, and by scientists.

The Council on Bioethics, for example, exists to advise the president on "ethical issues related to advances in biomedical science and technology," especially related to cloning, the use of embryos in research and the engineering of the human genome. The Council must balance religious, moral and other beliefs about destruction of embryos and manipulation of human evolution against considerations of scientific freedom and the possible benefits of the research. But the important points here are that this balancing process is an ethical one, not a technical one, and that scientists have no special status or expertise when it comes to ethical decisions.

A similar confusion surrounds the issue of climate change, where, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "the Bush administration has consistently sought to undermine the public's understanding of the view held by the vast majority of climate scientists" about the reality of global warming. But does anyone really think that the political debate about climate change hinges on the results of research, rather than, say, the economics of oil and the automobile, the wealth gap between rich and poor countries, or the politics of protecting tropical forests? Can we really imagine that science is somehow magically going to overcome the vested interests and

By **DANIEL SAREWITZ**
Special to Newsday

Sarewitz is director of the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes at Arizona State University.



conflicting values that occupy one side or the other of that debate?

One's opinions on such matters reflect not disembodied facts, but one's feelings about the trade-offs that will have to be made in achieving solutions. Personally, I'm in favor of protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, boosting research on alternative energy and raising taxes on hydrocarbons. I'm also in favor of a women's right to terminate a pregnancy—yet I'm squeamish about the ethical and social implications of research on human genetic enhancement. These are not strictly logical and unavoidable conclusions derived from scientific facts; they are preferences that reflect the world I'd like to live in, that help determine which facts I find to be convincing and relevant.

In other words, the problem with these attacks on the Bush administration is that they hide behind the sanctity of science to advance an agenda that is itself political. What we do, or don't do, about global warming (or stem-cell research, regulation of toxic chemicals, protection of endangered species...) will be a reflection of how we choose among competing values, and making such choices is not the job of science, but of democratic politics. Science can alert us to problems, and it can help us understand how to achieve our goals once we have decided them; but the goals themselves can emerge only from a political process in which science should have no special privilege.

But neither the Bush administration nor its scientific critics want to give up on the pretense that these controversies are about science. To do so would be to abandon the high ground created when one can claim to have "the facts" on one's side. The resulting charade, where everyone pretends that science can save us from politics, undermines science by turning it into nothing more than ammunition for opposing ideologies. Even more dangerous, it damages democracy by concealing what is really at stake—our values and our interests—behind a veil of technical language and competing expertise.

The 9/11 story is still being written

Before the current war, and the Gulf War, before Vietnam and Korea, America was engaged in World War II. My grandfather fought in that war. He was in the SeaBees in Hawaii for three years, and when he came home he wrote a book about it. Among other things, he gave a vivid account of watching a ship full of his colleagues be blown up in port by a torpedo. Near his death, more than 50 years later, he told me that not a day went by that he didn't think about that scene.

The book documents his experiences: the men he knew and the men who died, the clothes he wore, the seasickness, the heartsickness. He had it bound and gave a copy to everyone in the family.

This is something we do in the aftermath of great horrors: We put our experiences to words. We tell stories. They stabilize our memories and give them recognizable contours so that we can manage the guilt, the flashbacks and the nightmares; they also allow us to share deeply interior moments with others.

Stories make our private memories public. This happens when we tell a story at the local coffee shop, or in a book or film, or when we hear it on the 6 o'clock news. We're hungry for this, as in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, when so many of us tuned in to endless hours of news broadcasts. We wanted to know what had happened; we wanted the story.

There is something of the same hunger for the public hearings of the 9/11 Commission, which last week focused on what happened in New York City on the day of the terrorist attacks. As the commission interviews officials, survivors and family members, these witnesses tell their stories.

But stories are more than just what happened; individually and cumulatively, they create the meaning of what happened. They tell us what we should notice and what's irrelevant. For my grandfather, the story of World War II was one of liberators, of a great nation's and his and other young men's sacrifices to save the world from power-hungry empires.

By **ALISON PIEPMEIER**
Special to Newsday

Piepmeyer, editor of "Catching a Wave: Reclaiming Feminism for the 21st Century," is Women's Studies' assistant director at Vanderbilt.



Someone else might tell a different story: of the internment of Japanese Americans, the firebombing of Dresden and the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It might be the story of America itself becoming a power-hungry empire.

History and memory aren't the same thing. Memory is a personal story in the process of becoming public. History is the national story, written when one set of memories gets told and retold and becomes so familiar as to seem obvious.

Ultimately, the 9/11 Commission is writing history. It will fit people's stories into a larger narrative of the United States as a nation. This is no small responsibility, because the larger story will affect our future.

If we were attacked because we are a beacon of freedom, as one official version has it, then that story will lead us in a particular direction, perhaps toward vengeance and consolidation of power. If we were attacked because we are becoming, instead, a beacon of greed and entitlement, then that would lead us to a very different set of actions.

This is one reason our stories matter: They help us to know who we are and what to do next. In making sense of what happened, we shape our past and our future. We shape our identity as a nation.

This is the great burden on the shoulders of the 9/11 Commission. What kind of narrative will it write? What national story will it tell?

60th Anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian schedule

Friday, June 11

12 – 4pm Register for VFW conference in Dai Ichi Hotel lobby
4 – 8pm VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457)

Saturday, June 12

7:30am-5pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Hyatt hotel Chamolin-ian Room

10:00am-10:00pm AMMA sales tables open at Victoria Hotel Banquet Hall
12 – 4pm Register for VFW conference in Dai Ichii Hotel lobby
9 – 11am VFW MOC audit committee
11 – noon VFW MOC awards committee
1 – 4pm VFW afternoon social
4 –8pm VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457)
6pm “Taste of the Marianas” fiesta sponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority at American Memorial Park

7 – 9pm USO-style show at American Memorial Park

Sunday, June 13

6 – 10am AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at PIC lobby
7:30am-5pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Hyatt Hotel Chamolin-ian Room

10am-10pm AMMA sales tables open at Victoria Hotel Banquet Hall
8am – noon Register for VFW conference at Dai Ichi Hotel lobby
8am Marianas Memorial at American Memorial Park: beginning of the reading of the names of all Chamorros and Carolinians who died in WWII in the Marianas.

9am Dedication at American Memorial Park of Marianas memorial for Chamorros & Carolinians killed in WWII (Catholic service)

11:30am Host families rendezvous with veterans for the “Host a Veteran” program

12:00 Northwest Airlines 60th anniversary commemoration golf classic. Tee-off at Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, followed immediately by a reception.

2 – 3pm VFW department awards committee
3 – 7pm VFW MOC Social at Oleai Beach Bar & Grill
4 – 8pm VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457)
7–9pm Encore of USO-style show at American Memorial Park

Monday, June 14

6 – 10am AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at PIC lobby
7:30am-4pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Dai Ichi Hotel lobby
10am-10pm AMMA sales tables open at Victoria Hotel
8 – 9:45am Register for VFW conference in Dai Ichi Hotel lobby
9am Ribbon cutting for American Memorial Park Visitor Center & WWII exhibit & unveiling of 60th commemorative cancellation stamp

9:30am Time capsule dedication at American Memorial Park
10 –11:30am VFW opening ceremonies for Dept. of Pacific Areas 38th ann conv. W/ Gen. Tibbets, Van Kirk, Jeppson speaking at Dai Ichi Hotel

10am History alive seminars on historical topics at the Hyatt
1:30pm VFW VIP luncheon at Dai Ichi Banquet Room
2 – 2:30pm VFW outgoing council of admin meeting
2:30 – 3pm VFW MOC outgoing grand council
3pm End of history live seminars for the day
3 – 4:30pm VFW audit committee
4 – 8pm VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457)
6:30 – 9pm Campfire chat at American Memorial Park: veterans of the battles of Saipan & Tinian will share their stories from WWII around a campfire. Dr. Worley would be present.

Tuesday, June 15

12-6am AMMA staff fly American flags over court of honor at American Memorial Park

6-10am AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at PIC lobby
7:30am-5pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Hyatt hotel
10am-10pm AMMA sales tables open at Victoria Hotel Banquet Hall
8am-4pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Dai Ichi hotel lobby
9am Non-denominational memorial service at American Memorial Park
9 – 1:30pm VFW MOC grand business session
10am History alive seminars continue
1:30 –2:30pm VFW lunch break
2pm End of seminar series for the day
2:30 – 3pm VFW MOC incoming grand council
3 – 4pm VFW incoming / outgoing district commanders meeting
3:30pm Parade honoring veterans of the Battles of Saipan & Tinian, as well as other pacific campaigns—starts at Kristo Rai church

8pm VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457)
5:15pm 60th anniversary formal commemoration ceremony honoring veterans.

6:30pm Dinner reception hosted by the Office of the Governor at the American Memorial Park for VIPs

8pm Dancing to music of the 1940’s at American Memorial Park
9pm Laser light show at American Memorial Park

Wednesday, June 16

6 – 10am AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at PIC lobby
7:30am-5pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Hyatt hotel
8:30am-4:30pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open at Dai Ichi Hotel
10am-10pm AMMA sales tables open at Victoria Hotel Banquet Hall
10am Dr. Worley: roundtable discussion
4 pm Dr. Worley: community forum
10am History alive seminars continue
11:30 –3pm VFW lunch break
1:30 pm Unveiling of memorials and excavated Bomb Pit
1:35 pm Comnavmar fly by at North Field
1:45 pm Tour of Tinian WWII sites
7:00pm Veteran’s dinner hosted by Mayor Borja
7:45pm Commemorative Veteran pin ceremony
3pm End of history alive seminars, Sandcastle
3 – 4pm VFW first business session continues
4 – 8pm VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457)
6 – 8:30pm VFW MOC grand installation & awards banquet
8pm Laser light show at American Memorial Park

To be continued tomorrow

NMI

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The report came out as the CNMI government remains upbeat in increasing the participation of its native population in the local workforce. The government is currently implementing a moratorium on the hiring of alien workers from abroad, subject to certain exemptions.

Although it gave no explanations, the Census Bureau estimated that the population growth rate in the CNMI

would gradually decline in the succeeding decades. IDB statistics showed that the islands’ population would reach approximately 108,905 by 2020, reflecting a growth rate of 1.8 percent during the 2010-2020 period.

Projections have it that the following decade would have a reduced growth rate of 1.2 percent, with the Census Bureau estimating that local population would reach only 122,594 by 2030. The bureau estimated 2040’s population to increase to only 133,758, reflecting a

BUSINESS

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a brake on the slide in 2003, when collection increased by 11 percent, shooting up to \$210.3 million.

The Commerce report noted, however, that despite decreases in revenue collections and BGRT, government continued to incur additional expenses during the five-year period under review.

From a \$220.3 million expenditure in 1999, the government recorded a .5-percent increase in 2000 or \$1.3 million more money disbursed during the 12-month operation.

In 2001, the CNMI government posted an additional \$900,000 expenses, with operating costs increasing by another .4 percent from the \$221.6

million incurred in 2000 to \$222.5 million expended in 2001.

Operational costs briefly went down in 2002 when the CNMI government recorded only \$210.7 million expenses—a 5.3-percent decrease from the 2001’s operating expenses. Expenditures, however, shot up by 1.5 percent to \$213.9 million in 2003.

The Commerce report noted that since 1999, remittances have remained strong. From \$65.1 million in 1999, remittances abroad climbed to \$73.3 million the following year. The money sent out of the CNMI steadily climbed in 2001, when Commerce recorded \$76.7 million in remittances in 2001. By 2002, remittances hit the \$80.1 million record and continued with \$81.4 million in 2003.

CUC

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\$122 million—current assets of \$38 million minus current liabilities of \$160 million.

This sets the CUC’s current ratio at 0.24. A ratio of less than 1 indicates a low margin of safety. This low ratio is due to the classification of the four CDA notes payable and related accrued interest as current liabilities, CUC said.

Meantime, CUC reported over \$31 million in receivables, including \$16.2 million (53 percent) from the government and \$14.5 million from residential and commercial customers.

Of the \$14.5 million due from residential and commercial customers, CUC estimates that about \$8.6 million or 58 percent is uncollectable.

Included in the uncollectable amount is about \$825,000 that is due from 21 customers who has easement claims

against CUC. These customers, CUC said, are seeking compensation for utility service lines that cross their properties.

Until such time that the amount of compensation is agreed upon, these customers would not pay a part or all of their utility bills. CUC said that administrative hearings have been held and CUC is awaiting the outcome to pursue collection, should it be in favor of CUC.

Meantime, of the \$22.9 million in utility receivables in default, over \$13.8 million or 60 percent are due from CNMI government agencies.

Other receivables total over \$1.1 million. These are \$383,000 from a federal and CNMI grantor agencies for capital improvement projects and other assistance; \$431,000 from vendors for prepaid repair parts and supplies; \$26,000 from CUC employees, board members, and CNMI government of-

growth rate of only 0.9 percent.

The CNMI’s population growth rate had its peak so far during the 1980-1990 period at 9.6 percent. During this period, population jumped from 16,890 in 1980 to 44,037 in 1990. The influx of alien workers into the islands apparently contributed to the population increase.

The Census Bureau recorded the Northern Marianas’ 1970 population at only 12,359. The bureau reported that the islands’ 1950 population was a small 6,286, which increased to about 8,861 in 1960.

For the first quarter of 2004, Commerce reported that remittances or money sent out of the CNMI totaled \$21.8 million, at least \$1.3 million more than the remittances sent out in 2003’s first quarter, which totaled \$20.4 million.

Records obtained from the Banking and Insurance Division of the Commerce Department showed that the growth in money transfer activities—by 6.8 percent—during the first three months of 2004 was spurred by the increase in the dollar remittances of Chinese workers.

Also, the report noted that for the first seven months of fiscal year 2004, the CNMI government expended \$126.8 million for operational costs, exceeding revenues which only totaled \$117.9 million.

Officials for travel advances; \$107,000 from a vendor for the refund of the advance payment for an undelivered Rota generator; and \$153,000 in miscellaneous receivables.

CUC reported a restricted cash totaling over \$18.3 million reserved for utility customer security deposits, contract payments for refurbishment of power generation equipment, operations and maintenance of power, sewer, and water systems; and escrow for a loan agreement, and funds advanced by grantor agencies for CIPs.

As of March 31, 2004, CUC said it has over \$8.9 million in security deposit fund: about \$7.5 million in time certificates of deposits and over \$1.4 million in a checking account.

These funds, established in 1992, are used to refund deposits or offset account balances for accounts that are terminated or disconnected involuntarily for nonpayment.

TRIBUNE

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issues that range from education, public health, labor and immigration, tourism, among others.

As a reporter, Dones’ employer describes her as one who has “the initiative and focus to dig deeper into the issues.

“Driven by a strong desire to report the truth, which is often hidden from the public, Ms. Dones has delivered top quality, exclusive articles on important issues,” her employer said. “With a strong sense of public accountability, Ms. Dones’ works mirror her dedication to educate the readers and help them understand what is going on.”

Dones’ nomination also got the support from community sectors, including the Life in the Son Christian Fellowship-Saipan, where she is an active leader.

“Ms. Dones is currently involved in almost all church ministries. She is part of the music team, ushering, Sunday school for children, and she leads a small Bible study group for women once a week,” said church pastor Alexis Lorzano.

Bicol Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Lito J. Marquez also endorsed Dones’ nomination, saying that the journalist has always been willing to volunteer to help the organization. Dones hails from Sorsogon

City in Bicol, Philippines.

Concepcion L. Van Der Veen, president of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association and former president of the United Filipino Organization in the CNMI, described Dones’ journalism work as one that moves people into action. Dones is also an active member of the UPAA-CNMI.

“Ms. Dones’ impressive write-ups about the accomplishments of people from all walks of life have served as an inspiration to a lot of people,” Van Der Veen said.

She said Dones is a gifted writer who does not simply narrate news events. “She has the ability to weave words that aptly describe situations and events, revealing their worth, sense and meaning.”

Dones, who took up Journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, had worked as a reporter for major newspapers in the Philippines, including the *Philippine Star* and *Manila Standard*, since 1995, and as editor for the Asian country’s Earthwatch Magazine, a monthly magazine for teens, which won an international award in Nov. 2000 for its outstanding coverage and commitment to raise the level of young people’s awareness on environmental issues.

Besides Dones, the POLO named nine other awardees: Leo P. Canedo of Pacific Machinery, Inc.; Mary Lou M. Madraso,

Pacific Oriental Inc.; Romeo D. Malasarte, Pacific Daiken Co.; Cesario L. Pantaleon, Seasonal Inc.; Rolando A. Paspé, Pacific Printing Press Inc.; Anabelle A. Ramos, Ernst and Young LLP; Florencio C. Santos, Genoveva’s Hair Power; Lolita E. Velasco, Dr. Anthony Stearns; and Rosaura D. Zapanta, Office of the Public Auditor.

The POLO said the awardees were selected among 36 nominees by a panel of judges, which included San Vicente Elementary School principal Janet Villagomez, Tan Holdings vice president for finance and administration Glicerio Arago, San Antonio Parish priest Fr. Manuel Igrobay Jr., Sea Ventures Inc.’s Anthony Pellegrino, and Office of Insular Affairs’ Saipan field representative Jeff Schorr.

According to POLO, the judges selected the winners from diverse work categories: executive/managerial, professional, skilled and semi-skilled. The weight of the following criteria is as follows: job performance, 40 percent; civic involvement, 30 percent; personality, 15 percent; and potential, 15 percent.

The awarding ceremony will be held at the Nikko Hotel’s Theater Hall on June 5 beginning 6pm, as part of the celebration of Philippine Migrant Workers’ Day. The event will also showcase the graduation ceremony for students of POLO’s skills upgrading courses.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, left, and Historic Preservation Office director Epi-phanio Cabrera, right, present Sam McPhetres with an appreciation award for his help in making the old Japanese jail presentable to veterans.

SHAN SEMAN



McPhetres noted for going the extra mile

By CASSIE DLG FEJERAN
REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office recently extended its appreciation to Northern Marianas College instructor Sam McPhetres for his help in the cleanup efforts on the island as part of preparations for the 60th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

Bringing together students in his Current Issues class as well as other interested NMC students, he instigated the cleanup at the old Japanese jail in Garapan. Some 40 NMC students pooled their efforts together to clean up the deteriorating but valuable tourist site it. Last May 9, they finally finished the job.

As a show of their appreciation, Gov. Juan N. Babauta presented McPhetres with a certificate of appreciation.

Babauta said he is pleased to recognize McPhetres for his endeavor and for inspiring others to be a part of the project.

Tony Diaz, one of the NMC students who participated in the cleanup, said in an earlier interview they collected 200 bags of trash-a mix of residential and

industrial garbage-from the site. These included empty cans and bottles of beers, industrial batteries, burned oil bottles, industrial banners, and sheet metals.

Their work also involved cutting down some trees that have grown inside the jail cells, trimming down tree branches hanging over the jail, and getting rid of vines that had climbed into the walls.

“It’s deteriorating rapidly. Branches are destroying the walls,” said Diaz.

Another student, Roman Benavente, said the success of the cleanup was due to the teamwork and positive attitude of the group.

“We just hope that this [site] is kept clean and maintained because this is a major tourist site,” Benavente said.

He said they spent their own money for the cleanup but they would be reimbursed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s cash for trash program. The program pays \$200 for any cleanup drive on the island.

Benavente said they chose the site in anticipation of the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian this year.

The project was carried out in cooperation with the Historic Preservation Office, the Chamber, and Division of Parks and Recreation.

Ada tops Agri Fair Plant competition

The Silver Jubilee celebration of the Saipan Agriculture Fair came to a close last Sunday, but not after William C. Ada was crowned as the grand prize winner of the Plant Division.

Ada tallied up a total of 88 points to claim the honor, 12 points ahead of first runner-up Serafin P. Tudela, who finished with a total of 76 points. Ramon B. Camacho earned second runner-up status with 62 points while Juan C. Aguon capped the

winners with 60 points.

Categories featured in the division include Fruit, Vegetable, Root Crop, Nuts, and Miscellaneous. The categories were divided into type of entry.

Playing a crucial role in Ada’s success was the contest-best 21 points he garnered in the Fruit category. For his part, Tudela topped the vegetable category with 27 points while Camacho won the Root Crop category with 12 points. Aguon placed first in

the Nuts category while Olinka C. Chaudhry’s 13 points was best in the Miscellaneous category.

Points were tallied from each entry in each category that placed in the Top Three, with first place earning three points, second place earning two points, and third place bagging one point.

Points were tabulated by Saipan Agriculture Fair Association concession and tabulation chairman Isidro T. Cabrera. *(Shan Seman)*

Email catches on in remote Solomons communities

SANTA ANA, Solomon Islands (PFnet News/PIR)—The People First Network’s rural email stations are becoming popular in rural communities across the Solomon Islands.

On the remote island of Owa, commonly known as Santa Ana, on the tip of Makira Ulawa Province, communication has been a longstanding difficulty faced by residents.

The only other efficient means of communication for them is by HF radio, which is limited by bad weather and distance, but that was all before PFnet Rural Communication Network was established on the Island.

Just recently the people of the Island joined the rest of the world through PFnet Rural Communication Network. It was a timely breakthrough for communication means for this community.

The people on the coral Island have shown that the facility is there to help them in their communication needs ei-

ther with family and friends or to do business and have fully exploit this service in its first month of operation.

This is evident in the station taking of SB\$543 (US\$74) in the month April, a record for all stations.

None of the stations of the network have recorded such earnings during their first month, although all are doing well.

Email communication from PFnet Santa Ana alone has recorded almost half of the total takings; with average daily email traffic of thirteen (13) email messages throughout the month.

The other portion of taking is for sales of other service provided at the station like typing and printing, news sale and an online search for information using TEK software.

It is hoped that this station will grow as it gains popularity amongst the community and even on nearby sister island of Santa Catalina.

saipancell web fx
cmyk

Fallen heroes, veterans, soldiers honored

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

"Freedom is not free, and we must never forget the price we paid to gain all that we have and all that we cherish."

Keynote speaker Rear Admiral Arthur J. Johnson said this in yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Susupe, stressing the importance of reflection and recognition of fallen heroes, veterans, and individuals currently serving in the military.

The U.S. Pacific Command Representative of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau and Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas said the Memorial Day commemoration should forever continue, as it also serves as a time to remember, honor, and thank individuals responsible for the country's freedom.

"We must remember and thank veterans who paid the ultimate price and sacrificed their all for our nation," he said. "Let us never forget to thank all those who have served and continue to serve to ensure our freedom and magnificent way of life. [Also] by remembering and honoring these heroes, we send the unmistakable message to soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and their families that their service and sacrifice will not be soon forgotten."

Further, Johnson said Memorial Day ceremonies "help us find hope for our uncertain future."

"We remember our past to illuminate the way and ensure our future," he added.

During his brief remarks, acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente expressed the CNMI's gratefulness to the nation's armed forces.

"We are grateful as individuals, as a people, for the willing sacrifices that our brothers and sisters in the military services have made and are still making...so that we may continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty," he said.

He asked people to continue to pray and remember the troops currently engaged in the battle in Iraq.

The ceremony also featured placing of wreaths by Johnson, Benavente, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, members of VFW Post 3457, members of the CNMI Veterans Association, and members of the U.S. Armed Forces Association at the VMP.

Guests present also placed flags at the VMP.

The ceremony also featured a 21-gun salute, executed by Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd (SEP) Infantry of the U.S. Army Reserve.

JROTC cadets from Saipan Southern, Kagman, and Marianas high schools were also involved in the ceremony, responsible for the posting of flags, distribution of drinks, and releasing of balloons.

The ceremony was also attended by members of the Legislature, veterans, and current members of the military.

For the third straight year, pre-ceremonial music, as well as the U.S. and CNMI anthems, were provided by the Pacific Winds Concert Band.

Also, a special Mass was held on Sunday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral, dedicated to all active-duty military members, reservists, local Marine scouts, and veterans who have participated or have been deployed in the past and present to any areas of conflicts around the world. The service was also dedicated for military members who may be deployed in the future.



SHAN SEMAN

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente, second from left, Rear Admiral Arthur J. Johnson, third from left, acting Special Assistant for Veterans and Militaries Affairs Ruth Coleman, fourth from left, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, second from right, pose for photographers shortly after yesterday's ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park in Susupe.

Rear Admiral Arthur J. Johnson poses with the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays Battalion shortly after yesterday's ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Susupe.

SHAN SEMAN



Members of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd (SEP) Infantry, U.S. Army Reserve prior to the 21 Rifle Salute during yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Susupe.

SHAN SEMAN



SHAN SEMAN

Micronesia Repatriation Association members pray after offering incense during yesterday's 35th Peace Memorial Service at the Okinawa Tower at Last Command Post.

Special Assistant for Administration Thomas A. Tebuteb, second from right, Japanese Consul Takeo Saito, second from left, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, far right, attend the 35th Peace Memorial Service at the Okinawa Tower at Last Command Post yesterday.

SHAN SEMAN



165 take part in annual MRA pilgrimage

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

A total of 155 members of the Micronesia Repatriation Association of Okinawa arrived on island and held its 35th Peace Memorial Service at the Okinawa tower at the Last Command Post in Marpi yesterday in honor of those who served and died during World War II.

In addition to the number, another 10 from Guam and other islands in the Micronesia Region also took part in the celebration.

MRA chairman Choken Ginoza, who was born on Tinian and spent 13 years on Saipan, said through a translator that the service also pays tribute to 10 family members who were on duty during the war.

Ginoza, who was on island last April to discuss, make arrangements, and confirm with the government on the service and tour, said the annual service is also intended "to pray for worldwide peace."

The memorial service also included flower and incense offerings to those who lost their lives during the war.

He expressed his appreciation to the CNMI government, most especially the Marianas Visitors Authority, for continuous support of the event.

The group is also celebrating its 27th peace memorial service at the Okinawa tower in Suicide Cliff on Tinian.

"The peace memorial service is to

pray for those who perished during the war and also for those who are still fighting wars," said Pacific Development Inc. coordinator Gordon Marciano.

Both ceremonies are to be followed by an Okinawa friendship night dinner reception. On Saipan, the friendship night was held at the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel Garden and Poolside last night. On Tinian, the friendship reception would be held at Kammer Beach, with members of the MRA families and CNMI MRA families coming together to appreciate their good relations and to continue to bring peace and harmony for everyone.

The MRA group would be staying through June 3.

Marciano said the association is also sponsoring students to attend the 16th annual Okinawa CNMI Cultural Exchange program where three students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan each would be awarded scholarships to participate in the program.

The MVA and the Public School System would announce the participants in the student-cultural exchange program.

"Choken Ginoza shares the difficulties with the events in the world and some of the members of the group were unable to make the pilgrimage tour. But although some of the members can't make it, he [Ginoza] looks forward to the future as they continue to pray hand in hand with their families in Saipan and Tinian," said Marciano.

Business

Saudis try to reassure oil execs after attack

By **BRUCE STANLEY**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Saudi officials sought Sunday to reassure foreign oil executives—and prevent a dramatic rise in crude prices—after the lethal attack on two compounds housing offices and homes of expatriates working in the country's most important industry.

The weekend rampage by gunmen that killed 22 in the Saudi city of Khobar was the second such attack in less than a month. Saudi officials and foreign analysts voiced concern that it might frighten some would-be investors and oil service company employees from doing business in Saudi Arabia.

At the same time, they worried that the attack—which killed an American oil man, a British oil company executive, 17 other foreigners and three Saudis—might inflame fears about political stability there and drive oil prices higher when trading resumes on futures markets later in the week.

U.S. crude prices eased last week to less than \$40 per barrel after Saudi Arabia assured major importing nations that it would boost its production and urge its OPEC partners to do likewise.

Futures exchanges in New York and London would be

closed for holidays on Monday, delaying the market response.

"There's bound to be a bump in prices," said Yasser Elguindi of New York-based Medley Global Advisors. However, the three-day weekends in the United States and Britain should give markets more time to digest the events in Saudi Arabia and help temper any panicked response, he said by telephone from Cairo.

In spite of the ferocity of the attacks in Khobar, oil companies are used to dealing in environments that are even more hostile and threatening, such as parts of Africa and Central Asia. Analysts said the attack and seizure of hostages in Khobar was unlikely to trigger a mass departure of expatriates from the kingdom.

One 20-year American resident of Dhahran, a neighboring city, agreed.

"If I really felt that the general Saudi population didn't want us there—that we as Americans were not welcome—then that would be the time I would think about leaving. But that's not the case," said Kathleen Owen, a consultant for the state-run Saudi Arabian Oil Co., known as Saudi Aramco.

She spoke in a telephone interview from Pennsylvania, where she and her family were vacationing before their planned return to Dhahran later in June.

Some firms exceeding federal oil leases

By **DAVID PACE**
AP WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A single New Mexico family and a dozen big oil companies, including one once headed by Commerce Secretary Don Evans, now control one-quarter of all federal lands leased for oil and gas development in the continental United States despite a law intended to prevent such concentration, federal records show.

Since 1997, mainly as a result of mergers and acquisitions, six companies have exceeded the legal limit of 246,080 acres in lease holdings on public lands in states other than Alaska. But the Bureau of Land Management, in charge of enforcing the 1920 law, has chosen to extend compliance deadlines for years.

In fact, an Associated Press computer analysis found the Interior Department agency permitted companies it knew were in violation of the law in Wyoming to continue to acquire thousands of acres of new oil and gas leases in that state. The bureau has given the companies additional years to comply.

"They should not be purchasing leases," said Tom Lonnie, the bureau's assistant director



An oil pumper is silhouetted against Long's Peak near Firestone, Colo. in this July 17, 2001 file photo. AP

for minerals, realty and resource protection. Before acquiring a lease, a company must certify that its holdings do not exceed the legal limit.

The government can cancel leases held by companies that exceed the cap. Agency officials acknowledge they have never done that nor denied a company's request for more time to comply.

Companies in violation of the state limit as a result of a merger or acquisition have 180 days to comply.

"We try to work with them instead of hitting them with a hammer," said Bob Bennett, the

bureau's Wyoming state director.

When Anadarko Petroleum of Houston asked for a two-year extension to get back into compliance after a 2000 merger with Union Pacific Resources put it over the limit in Wyoming, the bureau said yes. That was the case, too, for a 2002 request by Encana Oil and Gas of Canada.

In the first 15 months of Anadarko's extension, the company acquired 70 new leases in Wyoming totaling more than 100,000 acres. A year after granting Encana the extension, the bureau allowed Encana to acquire two new leases totaling more than 2,000 acres in the state.

Anadarko relinquished 50 of its leases to meet a deadline this April 30 to get back under the acreage cap, Lonnie said. Encana has until October to comply. Four other companies that had gone over the cap in Wyoming since 1997 are now in compliance.

Bureau officials say they have to rely on companies to provide accurate accounts of their holdings because the agency's computerized records do not track transfers of lease operating rights or the ownership of divided shares of leases.

The lax enforcement coincides with the Bush administration's push to open new public lands for oil and gas development. In March, bureau records showed 40 million acres of federal lands were under lease in the continental United States. That is 5.3 million more acres than when President Bush took office.

Companies and individuals that dominate federal oil and gas leasing have been major financial supporters of Bush and the Republican Party. Since the 1999, the top 25 owners of federal oil and gas leases have directed 86 percent of their \$8.2 million in political donations to the GOP.

High gas prices mean shorter RV trips

HAMLIN, N.Y. (AP)—After 10 days parked in bird-loud woods near the Lake Ontario shore, John Gerfen is pumping 75 gallons of gasoline into his motor home this Memorial Day weekend, driving to his retirement home in Florida and hoping to keep his wanderlust in check.

Of all the motorists upset about high gas prices, recreational-vehicle owners pay a particularly heavy toll. Gerfen gets just 8 miles a gallon in his 37-foot-long behemoth—for years his solution to roving coast-to-coast in comfort and keeping property taxes at bay.

"We have no plans to move any place until gas prices come down," said Gerfen, 74, strolling around Hamlin Beach State Park while his wife, Muruvvet, napped. "At campsites, the three gripes I hear are fuel prices, the national debt and Iraq. Fuel prices are at the top."

Only now, the gas needle is drooping left, and he's running low on cash.

The tenacity with which RV enthusiasts adhere to their freewheelin' lifestyle isn't likely to be shaken, industry officials say, because gas ac-

counts for only a portion of their costs. In particular, those poised for a long-planned getaway probably won't change gears now.

But with pump prices peaking at a nationwide average of \$2.06 a gallon, quite a few might rethink their summer schedule—perhaps by keeping closer to home, eating out less or even postponing a trip.

"If you can delay your trip to Aunt Minnie's house for six months, then you might as well because it'll maybe be better then," said David Humphreys, president of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association, the \$12 billion-a-year industry's trade group in Reston, Va.

Any RVers who have made advanced arrangements "will say 'By God, we're going,'" he said. "Some may make some minor adjustments but, for most people, it's not an issue."

Mention gas prices to Mario Gatti—proud owner of a 22-foot Allegro he bought in 1984—and the Italian immigrant throws a look of disgust. "Re-ee-al bad! I fill it up—200 bucks!" exclaimed the retired Xerox Corp. copier parts inspector.

norita

Stocks of large, stable techs lead market

By MICHAEL J. MARTINEZ
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Long cast in the role of Wall Street's leading sector, technology stocks are fulfilling that expectation again, recording a bigger advance over the past two weeks than other shares.

But tech's own leadership is changing. While smaller, more speculative stocks were at the forefront of 2003's rally, the leaders in the current market's upswing—it's far too early to call it a rally from March's correction—are the stalwart bellwethers.

These large, stable tech firms such as Hewlett-Packard Co., Dell Inc. and Microsoft Corp. weathered well when stocks fell in March and April and, according to market analysts, stand to post the biggest gains in the second half.

"As we get out of this correction, the second leg up of this bull market will be fueled by the larger tech companies," said Ken Tower, chief market strategist for Schwab's CyberTrader. "The interest in technology is still there, but it's an echo of the enthusiasm of the 1990s. Tech has become more evolutionary than revolutionary, and investors are using a much more considered approach."

With the economy continuing its robust growth, corporations have been setting aside more money for capital expenditures

such as technology purchases. That bodes well for tech firms, which stand to see profits grow thanks to corporate spending on new workstations, servers, networks and software.

However, tech's former leaders, such as semiconductors and networking, are still too closely tied to the vagaries of the market. While they may indeed forecast Wall Street's ups and downs, they won't be the ones to lead an upside swing.

Semiconductors—the microprocessors at the heart of every piece of computer hardware—should enjoy the biggest gains coming off of their March and April lows. Worldwide chip sales have had double-digit growth each month since the beginning of 2004, and demand should keep those sales robust.

Those gains are coming, in part, because semiconductors were hit hardest in the recent market correction. And some of those second-half gains could already be priced into stock prices, analysts said.

Since topping off for the year at \$32.04 per share on Jan. 12, Intel foretold the market's correction through February and March, bottoming out at \$26.03 on April 20. Since then, Intel Corp. has risen 9.7 percent, closing Friday at \$28.55 per share. As the market continues to improve, analysts believe Intel and other chip stocks will continue to rise, but can still fall

victim to the market's volatility.

"Semiconductors have risen to the top just recently because they got so beaten down earlier," said Richard A. Dickson, senior market strategist at Lowry's Research Reports. "They might be worth holding onto to make up for earlier losses, but they're still vulnerable."

Instead of the former leaders, a number of big-name tech stocks that have underperformed—but kept their fluctuations in check—could lead future tech gains.

Computer makers and major software companies seem to have avoided much of the turbulence of 2004, signaling that they may show surprising stability and some positive gains in the future. Dell, for example, has traded between \$31 and \$37 a share for the past six months, but did not fall prey to the March correction as badly as other tech shares did. Indeed, the stock rose through much of March and April while other shares suffered.

Likewise, Hewlett-Packard is only \$1 off its \$22 price from six months ago. And software maker Microsoft has traded between \$24 and \$29 per share in the same time period.

"These stocks that have weathered the downturn well are in a great position," Tower said. "They're maturing as companies, they have solid fundamentals, and they can do pretty well."



ROYAL CROWN

Seiko Jewelry Co. employee Eri Yamada displays a 1/4 scale replica of the Imperial Crown, which was worn by Queen Elizabeth II of England in the 1953 Coronation Ceremony, at the company's head office in Tokyo Thursday, May 27, 2004. A Japanese agency and Dutch diamond cutter Royal Ascher Co., known for cutting the 317.40-carat diamond Cullinan II, one of the world's largest ores in history found in South Africa early 20th century, set on the original regalia, took two years and two months to reproduce the crown after they firstly hit on a plan. The platinum replica, studded with a total of 1,754 diamonds, cut by 27-year-old Japanese jewelry cutter Takaharu Hiroumi, will be exhibited at a department store in Tokyo from Friday, May 28, and several other cities across Japan before being put on sale for 150 million yen (US\$1.35 million).

AP

Fiat CEO quits after new chairman named

ROME (AP)—Fiat SpA chief executive Giuseppe Morchio handed in his resignation Sunday, shortly after the auto conglomerate announced it had named Ferrari chief Luca Cordero di Montezemolo its new chairman. Morchio also had been considered a candidate for the chairman's position.

The Italian news agency ANSA said it had received a statement from Morchio attributing his resignation to "the changed conditions coming from the decisions taken today by the company's board of directors."

The statement said Morchio regretted not being able to participate in the struggling automaker's restructuring plan,

which he had led and that had begun to show "its first positive results after 15 months of total dedication and intense work at the side of Umberto Agnelli," according to ANSA.

The shakeup came three days after the death of Umberto Agnelli, the last of the company's old guard. He died of cancer at age 69 on Thursday night, little more than a year after taking over Fiat Group from his elder brother Giovanni "Gianni" Agnelli, who passed away in January 2003.

Umberto took control at an ugly moment in Fiat's history, and the business had begun showing improvements. In 2002, Fiat Group's losses

were 4.3 billion euros; after a year with Umberto Agnelli and Morchio, losses had dropped to 1.9 billion euros.

The Fiat board will meet Tuesday to consider what to do in the wake of Morchio's resignation.

The Turin, Italy-based automaker also said it had chosen John Elkann, a 28-year-old heir to the Agnelli empire, as vice chairman, and added Umberto Agnelli's son, Andrea, to the board.

The choice of close Agnelli ally Montezemolo—whose management of Ferrari has been a beacon of success in the family's struggling automaking empire—as well as Elkann and Andrea Agnelli showed the clan's interest in maintaining its tight grip over the company.

No famous defendants in first Enron trial

HOUSTON (AP)—The first criminal trial involving former Enron Corp. executives involves no notorious defendants. The alleged shady deal at its center didn't fuel the company's crash. Even the judge presiding over the June 7 trial has defined it as "not a big, high-profile Enron case."

But the conspiracy trial of a former Enron finance executive, a former in-house accountant and four former Merrill Lynch

& Co. executives will mark the first time federal prosecutors try to persuade jurors to convict people who once worked at the scandal-ridden, bankrupt company, and defense attorneys are wary that their clients could be held responsible for the entire mess.

"It's not about Andy Fastow, it's not about Jeff Skilling, it's not about Ken Lay. But I think the public thinks that it is. It's about a very discreet transaction, and we are concerned that

the public understand this is not about the demise of Enron," said Dan Cogdell, who represents former Enron accountant Sheila Kahanek.

Former finance chief Fastow, former CEO Skilling and former chairman Lay are the most recognizable of former top executives of the company that imploded in December 2001 amid revelations of hidden debt, inflated profits and accounting skulduggery.

Web sites let couples register for stock

NEW YORK (AP)—The big wedding trend this year was supposed to be the gift registry at home-improvement chain Home Depot Inc. But another twist was introduced earlier this month, allowing future brides and grooms to register for gifts of Home Depot stock.

GiftsofStock.com was launched by financial publishing firm The Money-paper Inc. in Rye, N.Y., as a way for people to more easily invest in dividend reinvestment plans, or DRIPs.

DRIPs are company-sponsored investment programs that let anyone with at least one share grow their stock holdings by reinvesting their dividends. DRIPs are a great investment tool for young investors, like newlyweds, who can't always afford more common methods of investing, such as brokerage accounts.

GiftsofStock.com can help people overcome the initial hurdles of DRIP investing. Rather than front the cost for the first shares yourself, you can receive them as gifts for a wedding, the birth of a newborn baby, a graduation, an anniversary or a birthday.

Melissa Longmire, a 21-year-old student from Hous-

ton, was already registered at shops like Target Corp. and Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. for her wedding. But she made sure her family knew which gifts she preferred when she sent notice that she had registered with GiftsofStock.com.

"I told them I would much rather have shares of stock than a roasting pot or dishes," Longmire said.

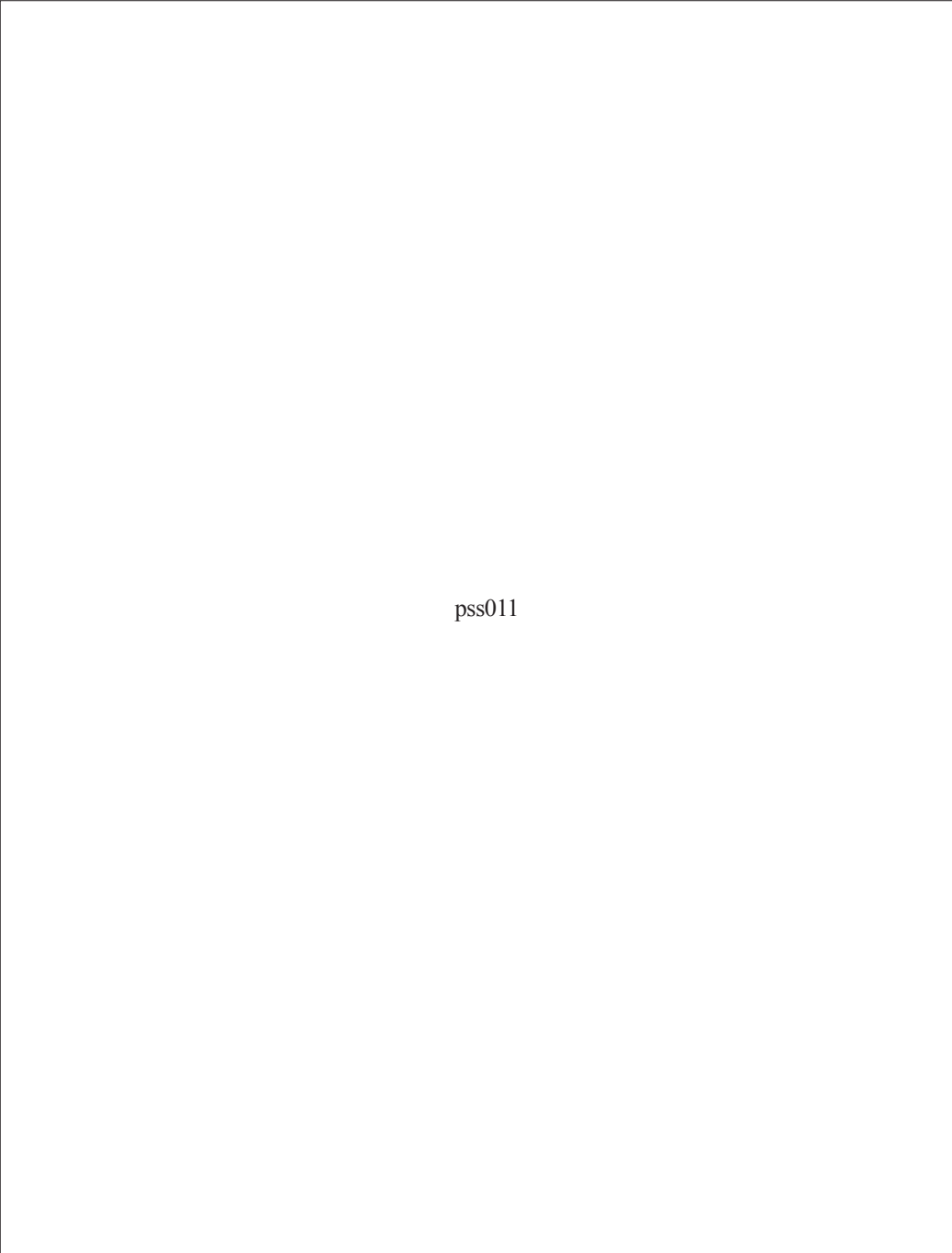
GiftsofStock.com is part of a small but growing trend toward alternative wedding gifts, said Sharon Naylor, an author of wedding advice books.

Couples today get married so much later in life and often already own the household appliances wedding registries were designed to help them acquire, said Naylor, of Madison, N.J. Many couples would rather receive money or even patio furniture than a toaster, she said.

Despite the growth in demand for alternatives, financial gift registries aren't always successful. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, for example, created a registry in 1996 so couples could ask wedding guests for help saving for a new home. But it was discontinued about four years ago, according to Lemar Wooley, a HUD spokesman.

STOCK	
ASIAN MARKETS	
Hong Kong	11,800.00
Taiwan	6,800.00
Japan	12,500.00
South Korea	2,500.00
Thailand	1,500.00
Philippines	1,500.00
Indonesia	1,500.00
Singapore	1,500.00
Malaysia	1,500.00
LEADING INDICATORS	
DOW	10,100.46 -18.75
NASDAQ	1,900.74 +2.34
S&P	1,120.68 -0.80
MONEY MARKET	
3-Month Bill	1.25%
6-Month Bill	1.25%
1-Year Bill	1.25%
2-Year Bill	1.25%
3-Year Bill	1.25%
5-Year Bill	1.25%
10-Year Bill	1.25%
15-Year Bill	1.25%
20-Year Bill	1.25%
30-Year Bill	1.25%
1-Month T-Bill	1.25%
3-Month T-Bill	1.25%
6-Month T-Bill	1.25%
1-Year T-Bill	1.25%
2-Year T-Bill	1.25%
3-Year T-Bill	1.25%
5-Year T-Bill	1.25%
10-Year T-Bill	1.25%
15-Year T-Bill	1.25%
20-Year T-Bill	1.25%
30-Year T-Bill	1.25%

Nation



Asia

Pakistan cleric killed, thousands rampage

By ZARAR KHAN
AP WRITER

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Thousands of Sunni Muslims rampaged through this volatile southern Pakistani city Sunday, ransacking property and stoning vehicles after unidentified gunmen assassinated an influential pro-Taliban cleric.

Enraged by the drive-by shooting of Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzai, rioters set fire to banks, shops, a police station and a KFC fast food restaurant, and traded gunfire with security forces, leaving more than a dozen people injured.

Tens of thousand of mourners later gathered for the evening funeral, where police fired warning shots above the crowd.

Shamzai, in his 70s, had met Osama bin Laden and was a strong supporter of Afghanistan’s former Taliban regime. The soft-spoken cleric was shot dead as he traveled in a pickup truck to his Sunni Muslim religious school in the east of the city.

Witnesses told police that as many as six gunmen riding in two cars and on a motorcycle opened fire on Shamzai’s vehicle, wounding one of his sons, a nephew, his driver and a police bodyguard.

No one claimed responsibility for the shooting, which Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali condemned as a “dastardly act of terrorism.”

In the riots, Sunni Muslim students, some shouting slogans against rival Shiite Muslims, took to the streets. Paramilitary forces were deployed to protect Shiite mosques, amid fears of sectarian violence.

The attack came three weeks after a suicide bomber killed 22 worshippers at a Shiite mosque in Karachi, and days after two car bombings near the U.S. Consul’s residence that killed one person and injured 40.

Since late 2001, when Pakistan threw its support behind the U.S.-led war on terror, Karachi has been wracked by terrorist attacks, some targeting foreign-

ers, others apparently motivated by sectarian differences.

Nearly 80 percent of people in this Islamic country are Sunnis and live peacefully with minority Shiites, but radical groups on both sides often launch deadly attacks against members of the other sect.

After Shamzai’s shooting, Sunnis—mostly students wearing beards, traditional white caps and tunics—set fires and pelted passing vehicles with stones. Hundreds raided a police station near Shamzai’s school, Jamia Islamia Binor

Town, beating up three policemen and setting fire to vehicles.

Police said rioters set fire to four banks and Quaid-e-Azam Academy, an institute that conducts research on Pakistan’s founding father Mohammed Ali Jinnah. They ransacked shops, a KFC restaurant, a cinema and a gas station, and snatched two ambulances.

In the worst clashes, about 2,000 rioters attacked a building housing a bank and a newspaper. Police in armored cars fired guns in the air and tear gas, and from within the crowd, automatic gunfire crackled back.



A Pakistani boy walks in front of a burning van, set on fire by angry supporters of slain Pakistani Sunni Muslim cleric Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzai following the killing of the cleric in Karachi, Pakistan, Sunday.

5 die in Afghan office attack

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban guerrillas riding in a fleet of vehicles shot up a government office in southern Afghanistan, killing four Afghan soldiers, an official said Sunday. One gunman also was killed.

The attack came just hours after an explosion killed four special forces traveling in a Humvee, one of the deadliest attacks on U.S. troops trying to stop resurgent militants from wrecking planned national elections.

The suspected Taliban militiamen swept into Musa Qala, a market town 150 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, late Saturday, opening fire on the government office with assault rifles and heavy machine guns, mayor Mullah Amir Aghunzada told The Associated Press.

Four of the 30 soldiers de-

fending the compound were killed and eight others were wounded, Aghunzada said. One Taliban fighter was also killed and four were captured, three of them wounded.

The official said about 100 Afghan troops rushed from the provincial capital, Lashkargah, and began combing the area for the attackers Sunday.

“There is some support for them in this area,” Aghunzada said. “They live up in the mountains and come down at night.”

The four American special forces soldiers perished Saturday about 20 miles east of Qalat, the capital of southeastern Zabul province.

“An explosive device detonated under the (Humvee) the four were traveling in,” spokeswoman Lt. Col. Michele DeWerth said.

Nepal’s king calls for nomination of new PM

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal’s king is asking the country’s five biggest political parties to nominate someone to become this Himalayan kingdom’s next prime minister after the monarchist incumbent resigned earlier this month in response to massive anti-government protests.

The royal palace issued a statement late Sunday that said that the parties have until late Monday to nominate someone for the job—a possible first step toward resolving a two-year political crisis.

“The candidate must have a clean image, able to garner support from all quarters in forming the council of ministers, initiate parliamentary elections

by maintaining peace and security,” the statement said.

Leaders of the five main parties said they would meet later Monday to discuss the matter.

Monarchist Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa resigned May 7 after weeks of often-violent protests by activists demanding his ouster and a return to full democracy. Leaders of Nepal’s five main political parties have demanded that Thapa’s replacement come from within their ranks.

Nepal has been gripped by political turmoil since Gyanendra sacked Parliament in 2002 and fired then-Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, accusing him of incompetence and of failing to end a communist insurgency.

TRIBUNE CLASSIFIED AD

RP prepares for stormy count of votes



By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Congress prepared Monday for a potentially explosive count of May 10 presidential ballots, with camps of both incumbent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and film star Fernando Poe Jr. claiming victory and issuing threats if their candidate is cheated out of a win.

Riot troops blocked access roads around the Congress building as security was tightened for the vote count.

Congressional leaders were to announce members of a 22-member committee that will do the actual count. Opposition politicians have demanded more representation in the powerful committee, which is expected to be dominated by pro-Arroyo legislators.

Lawyers and lawmakers allied with Poe said they would present evidence proving the popular actor was cheated of more than 2 million votes—enough to overturn claims that Arroyo won by a million votes, his party said.

"I am ... greatly disturbed by reports of massive fraud and of the unbridled misuse of government resources in the recently concluded elections," Poe said in full-page newspaper advertisements Monday.

Arroyo's camp has denied committing fraud, and instead accused Poe's camp of cheating in a number of provinces.

Poe's party has warned of a "people power" revolt if he's denied the presidency. Arroyo's aides, however, say she won by about 1.1 million votes and her government has threatened to arrest troublemakers.

Meanwhile, rumors of restiveness



Military trucks loaded with ballot boxes are escorted by motorcycle policemen as they make their way towards the Batasang Pambansa or the legislative building Saturday, May 29, 2004 in the Manila suburb of Quezon City.

among soldiers backing the opposition have spread in recent days. But the military has played down the rumors.

The military and police have been on heightened alert in recent weeks.

By law, only Congress can pro-

claim the winning president and vice president, who are to take office on June 30.

The Philippines has been roiled by political turmoil in recent years. In 2001, Arroyo helped lead massive pro-

tests that toppled then President Joseph Estrada over alleged corruption.

Estrada, detained and on trial for the capital offense of economic plunder, backed his fellow actor Poe in the elections.

Brunei warns visa offenders will be whipped

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP)—Brunei has threatened to whip foreigners who overstay their visas, under new rules to stop migrant workers from nearby countries settling illegally in the oil-rich sultanate.

The Immigrant and National Registration Department said that from June 12 caning would be the mandatory punishment for people caught over-

staying their visas by 90 days or more.

In a statement issued on Sunday Chief Immigration Officer Jumat Burut ordered foreigners with expired work or visit permits to turn themselves in before the deadline or face at least three strokes of a rattan cane and possibly three months in jail.

The new punishment also applies to anyone who helps an immigration offender enter or leave Brunei illegally,

a move directed at agents who employ foreigners to work in Brunei.

Brunei is a tiny country on the northeast coast of Borneo island whose offshore oil and gas wealth as made it one of the world's richest nations per capita.

The roughly 360,000 population in the absolute monarchy pay no taxes and the government pays for health and other services. It relies on work-

ers from neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Indonesian and the Philippines to fill mostly menial jobs such as laborers and maids.

In 2002, neighboring Malaysia introduced similar harsh laws and expelled more than 300,000 people in a crackdown on illegal immigrants, whom the government said were responsible for rising crime rates.

Troops block Pakistani town in terror hunt

WANA, Pakistan (AP)—Paramilitary troops blocked roads to this remote Pakistani town Sunday and imposed "economic sanctions" against local tribesmen after they failed to help authorities to register foreign militants believed to be hiding in the region.

An army spokesman warned that a military operation would be launched in South Waziristan, of which Wana is the main town, unless tribesmen started to cooperate.

Hundreds of Arab, Afghan and Central Asian militants believed to be linked with al-Qaida and the Taliban militia are suspected to be living in the region, which borders Afghanistan.

Heavily-armed soldiers in armored cars patrolled deserted bazaars in Wana and roads leading up to the town were blocked. Local journalists had to prove their identities to be allowed in. Sharp shooters had taken up positions on shop rooftops.

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said authorities had closed shops as "economic sanctions" against tribesmen. He described this as part of a "step-

by-step" approach to get them to help in registration of the suspected militants.

"If they do not come down to the government stance, there is going to be a military operation," Sultan told The Associated Press in the capital Islamabad. He wouldn't say when that operation might begin.

The last counterterrorism operation in South Waziristan in March, Pakistan's largest since it joined the U.S.-led war on terrorism in late 2001, left at least 120 people dead, including nearly 50 soldiers.

It ended when the government decided to pursue negotiations instead. It offered to let foreign militants stay in the region if they registered with authorities and renounced terrorism.

But no foreigner took up the offer, even after local tribesmen set up a militia to track the militants down in their territory.

The military stepped up pressure on Saturday by detaining dozens of tribesmen and impounding vehicles.

South Waziristan is also believed to be a possible refuge for Osama bin Laden and his chief aide, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Taiwan probes struggling to find witnesses of presidential shooting

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Officials investigating the shooting of Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian said Monday that more than 100 people were at the scene of the election-eve attack but so far only a few dozen potential witnesses have been identified.

Police have collected pictures and footage of bystanders at the March 19 incident that slightly wounded Chen and Vice President Annette Lu, but the images were not clear enough to identify many of the people, said Hou You-yi, the head of the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

"The biggest blind spot in the investigation is that we have no way of determining for 100 percent where each person in the crowd stood and how many people were there," Hou told lawmakers.

"We're estimating there were more than 100 people present in that area,

but we have only found dozens of them," he said.

One bullet grazed Chen's stomach and another hit Lu's knee while they were parading past crowds of flag-waving supporters in an open Jeep in the southern city of Tainan.

The shooting has given rise to a wide range of conspiracy theories, including allegations from the opposition that the president staged the attack to win sympathy votes in the March 20 election, which he narrowly won.

The opposition has said it cannot accept the election result until the shooting has been explained.

Although police have not announced any solid leads or suspects, the opposition has not found any compelling evidence that the shooting was faked. U.S. forensics experts analyzed the president's wound and concluded that it was caused by a bullet.

Malaysian dances on bed of nails

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—An instructor of Indian traditional dance swirled and swayed on a bed of nails for more than 30 minutes in Malaysia—leaving her with slightly bloodied feet and claims to a record.

S. Mathevi, in bare feet and traditional Indian costume, performed a dance called Baratham on a floor of about 10,000 nails in the central city of Ipoh to help raise awareness of the non-nail version of the artform.

She also claimed to have set a record for the length of time spent dancing on a bed of nails, and hoped her feat over the weekend would be included in the Malaysian Book of Records and featured on U.S. television show "Ripley's Believe It Or Not."

"I practiced dancing on hot sand four times a day for a month to strengthen the soles of my feet," Mathevi was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times newspaper. "My tutor would also hit the soles of my feet with a stick for the same purpose."

Woman to pay husband for illegitimate child

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean court ordered a woman to pay her husband 50 million won (US\$42,380) in compensation for having a baby with another man, a judge said Monday.

The 26-year-old woman told her husband in February 2002 she was pregnant with his baby, and demanded that they marry. The baby was born in November 2002.

"The man had used condoms whenever they had sex, but he agreed to marry, thinking that one of the condoms didn't work," said Hong Joong-pyo, a judge at the Seoul Family Court.

But the man's suspicion grew when relatives complained that "the baby didn't look like him at all," Hong said.

When the husband confronted his wife with a DNA test that showed the baby was not his, the woman argued that the baby must have been switched at hospital. When the husband moved to sue the hospital, the woman confessed to having been pregnant with another man's baby, Hong said.

Hong also nullified the marriage in his ruling Thursday.

Suspected Taliban sentenced to death

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suspected Taliban militant has been sentenced to death for a bombing in January that killed 13 children and two adults, a justice official said Saturday, amid an outcry over Afghanistan's return to capital punishment.

Abdul Ajan has appealed his conviction and sentence to a higher court, a month after Afghanistan carried out its first execution since the fall of the hardline Taliban regime, which drew international condemnation.

A court in Kabul handed down the death sentence against Ajan in a recent closed-door hearing, deputy supreme court justice Fazel Ahmad Manawi told The Associated Press.

If the sentence is upheld, Ajan can appeal to the Supreme Court. President Hamid Karzai would have the last word if the country's highest judges decide to execute Ajan.

World

Saudi troops free dozens held at resort

By DONNA ABU-NASR
AP WRITER

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Helicopter-borne Saudi commandos drove al-Qaida militants from an expatriate



AP
Saudi commandos leap from a helicopter Sunday, May 30, 2004 in this image made from television where suspected Islamic militants were holding dozens of U.S., European and other hostages at a housing compound in Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

housing complex in the kingdom’s oil hub Sunday, ending a shooting and hostage-taking spree that left 22 dead—most of them foreigners.
At least one American was killed in the worst terror attack

on Saudi soil in a year and the second this month to target its oil industry. A statement Sunday attributed to al-Qaida’s chief in the Saudi region said the violence aimed to punish the kingdom for its oil dealings with the United States and to drive “crusaders” from “the land of Islam.”
The 25-hour rampage started Saturday morning when militants dressed in military-style uniforms opened fire inside two oil industry office compounds in the Gulf city of Khobar and engaged in a shootout with Saudi

guards. They then moved up the street to the Oasis, an upscale resort and residence with apartments, villas and hotels, where they took 45-60 hostages.
Saudi security stormed the building early Sunday morning after they found out that the hostages were being harmed, said Jamal Khashoggi, an adviser to Saudi Arabia’s embassy in London.
“Intervention then became necessary,” he said.
The commandos freed 41 hostages, the Saudi Interior

Ministry said. The Saudi ambassador to Britain, Turki al-Faisal, told the BBC that the bodies of nine hostages had been found on the premises when forces went in.
Only one of the four attackers was captured and the others escaped, but the Interior Ministry said the arrested militant, who was wounded, was the ring-leader of the assault and “an important target.” One of the fugitives also was wounded.
In Washington, a spokesman for the Saudi Embassy, Nail

al-Jubeir, told CNN that one militant also was killed in the standoff with Saudi forces.
“The intent (of the attack) was to cripple the world economy by sending the message that foreigners are not safe inside Saudi Arabia,” he said, but dismissed any notion that the kingdom cannot protect its people.
“It does not take much to come into a building with a rifle and shoot innocent people,” he said, comparing the attack to a drive-by shooting. “Unfortunately it is very difficult to guard against.”

2 killed in Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Assailants ambushed a convoy of Britons on a northern Baghdad highway on Sunday, killing one Iraqi security guard and a bystander, officials and witnesses said. U.S. soldiers came under fire in a Shiite holy city as an agreement to halt fighting there appeared to be unraveling.
Two American soldiers were wounded in the clashes around the holy city, Najaf, the military said. Fighting erupted Sunday night in Najaf’s twin city Kufa, and Shiite militia-men accused the Americans of firing near the main mosque, damaging its outer wall.
In a report from Kufa, CNN, which has a reporter embedded with 1st Armored Division troops there, said a “major firefight” broke out late Sunday when soldiers tried to secure a

police station. CNN quoted soldiers as saying it was the most intense fighting in the area in the past six weeks.
The attack in Baghdad’s Shoala district occurred near dusk as the convoy of sport utility vehicles headed south toward the city center. Gunmen in an approaching vehicle opened fire, sending three SUVs swerving off the road into barricades.
Crowds of Iraqi youths danced and cheered as rescuers dragged a bloodied body, wearing a flak vest, from the driver’s seat of one vehicle. Others looted tires and set two vehicles on fire.
Two witnesses, Khalid Zaa-lan, 22, and Qays Hussein, 15, said there was a shootout, and armed Western men jumped from the wrecked SUVs, commandeered a passing car at gunpoint and escaped.

Russia, Powell discuss Iraq handover
MOSCOW (AP)—Russia’s foreign minister discussed the handover of power in Iraq in telephone talks this weekend with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, the ministry said Sunday.
The discussions came amid negotiations among the 15 U.N. Security Council members on a U.S.-British draft resolution for Iraq’s post-occupation government, set to take power June 30.
Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Powell held “a deep exchange of opinions” on Saturday about the political situation in Iraq, the ministry said in a brief statement. They also discussed “cooperation within the U.N. Security

Council aimed at providing effective support by the international community for normalizing the situation in Iraq,” the statement said.
The conversation came a day after President Bush assured Russian President Vladimir Putin that the U.S.-led coalition would transfer “complete and full sovereignty” to the interim government. Putin had stressed earlier Friday that Iraqi sovereignty must be real and not illusory.
Russia and several other Security Council members opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq last year and the Bush administration has taken pains to emphasize it is open to suggestions on the current resolution being debated.

tribune graduation ad

No Cabinet vote on Sharon's Gaza plan

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
AP WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tried to push forward his Gaza withdrawal plan during a tense seven-hour meeting of his divided Cabinet on Sunday, threatening to fire recalcitrant ministers and reshuffle his government if he failed to obtain a majority.

The meeting ended without a vote, and there was growing uncertainty over the fate of Sharon's government. Some Cabinet ministers tried to find a compromise that would rescue the U.S.-endorsed plan and mend ties between Sharon and his main political rival, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The plan—or a compromise—might come up for a vote at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting, but even that is uncertain, Justice Minister Yosef Lapid said.

"In any case, there is not at the moment a clear picture of where the things are going," Lapid, head of the moderate Shinui Party, told Associated Press Television News.

Sharon wants to withdraw Israeli soldiers and settlers from the entire Gaza Strip and evacuate four West Bank settlements. His hard-line Likud Party rejected the proposal in a May 2 referendum, enabling some ministers, who had reluctantly supported the plan, to shift sides.

In a rare interview with an



Palestinian Mohammed Barhoom, 58, sits on the rubble of his demolished house, destroyed by Israeli forces next to the border of Egypt at Rafah refugee camp, in the southern Gaza Strip, Sunday, May 30, 2004.

Israeli TV station, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gave conditional support to the Gaza pullout plan.

"When will it come? Will it be a complete withdrawal?" he asked.

Arafat also offered to meet

Sharon and talk peace.

"Why not? If there is a will for peace, it will overcome all other ideas," he said.

Israel is boycotting the veteran Palestinian leader, charging that he is implicated in Palestinian violence.

Sharon told ministers Sunday he is determined to get his plan approved even if he has to "change the makeup of the government or take unprecedented political steps," one participant said on condition of anonymity.

Israeli media said two minis-

ters from the hard-line National Union party could be the first to go, giving Sharon the majority he needs. Currently, 12 ministers oppose the withdrawal and 11 favor it.

Lapid, who supports a withdrawal, proposed holding a

vote only on a small portion of the withdrawal plan in hopes of securing a Cabinet majority. However, Israeli media reported that the Bush administration is urging Sharon to stick to the full plan.

Israel's ambassador in Washington, Daniel Ayalon, said Sunday that Sharon is determined to go ahead with the plan.

"There is absolutely no pressure from the United States whatsoever," Ayalon said.

Sharon and some ministers argued Sunday over whether the United States would back a watered-down proposal, officials present at the session said.

Reflecting concern about a U.S. reaction, Sharon's top aide, Dov Weisglass, was heading to Washington later Sunday, an official in the prime minister's office said.

In the Gaza Strip, some 7,500 Jewish settlers live among 1.3 million Palestinians, controlling one-third of the crowded coastal territory.

Sharon has said withdrawing from Gaza would boost Israel's security and help it hold on to chunks of the West Bank in a final peace deal—a position Bush supports.

In a possible shake-up, National Union ministers Avigdor Lieberman and Benny Elon most likely would be fired, Israeli media said. Dismissing the pair would give Sharon a one-vote majority in the Cabinet.

GIs to linger in Haiti until June

MAPOU, Haiti (AP)—U.S. troops deployed to Haiti during a bloody revolt to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will begin leaving in the midst of another crisis as the nation tries to recover from deadly floods.

The official American handover to a U.N. force is set for Tuesday, but only a fraction of the planned 8,000 troops and police for the U.N. force have arrived, and none have brought helicopters needed to help flood victims. So most U.S. troops will stay until the end of June. After that, fewer than a dozen will participate in the U.N. force.

Hurrying to help people in submerged villages after floods killed more than 1,400 in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the U.S. troops control the few

available helicopters and have become key to getting aid to inaccessible areas. In the past few days, they have airlifted more than 100,000 pounds of food and drinking water and evacuated the injured.

For some of the 1,900 U.S. troops—1,500 of them Marines—the end to their Haiti mission is a bittersweet moment.

"On the one hand, we'll leave with a sense of accomplishment," said U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Dave Lapan, spokesman for the U.S.-led multinational task force that was sent to secure and stabilize the nation. "On the other hand, there's so much this place needs."

Floods and mudslides brought on by three days of heavy rain wiped out entire villages in

Haiti's southeast corner around a farming community called Mapou, a week before the hurricane season begins Tuesday.

Desperate Mapou survivors have been stealing food aid from each other. As military helicopters swooped down every 10 minutes with more aid Sunday, some 1,000 Haitians stood waiting in the 90-degree heat.

"People have been hiding in corn fields and jumping each other at night to get rice and other food," said U.S. Marine Cpl. Scott Rossman, 21, of Altoona, Pa. "But at the end of the day at least they have food."

With hills denuded of most trees, similar disasters threaten other towns, straining the U.N. force's original task of tending to Haiti's other daunting needs.

Official: Olympic costs outweigh rewards

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—The cost of hosting the Olympic Games is more than \$1 billion higher than expected and the rewards less than Greece had hoped for, the country's new finance minister said in an interview published Sunday.

Giorgos Alogoskoufis blamed the higher costs on delays incurred by the Socialist government that successfully bid for the games in 1997 and was de-

feated by his own conservative party in March elections.

"The Olympic Games are costing us a lot more than we expected, because issues were left for the last minute," Alogoskoufis told the Athens daily Eleftherotipia.

He said the cost of the Aug. 13-29 Olympics had gone up by at least \$1.19 billion and that the delays—mostly in construction—had hurt Greece's image.

The games were originally to

cost \$5.5 billion, but the security budget alone has doubled. Cost overruns because of delays also inflated costs.

Alogoskoufis said if Greece, one of the smallest countries to host the Olympics, was to bid for the games today "I don't think that we would be as excited."

Alogoskoufis was the second minister in a week to question the cost and rewards of hosting the Olympic Games.

Carter: Chavez ready to face recall vote

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez is willing to face a recall referendum if the opposition gathers enough petition signatures to force the vote, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said after meeting the Venezuelan leader.

Chavez "is completely willing, eager to go to the referendum," Carter said after Sunday's meeting at the Miraflores Presidential Palace.

Carter met Chavez as opposition leaders concluded a three-day campaign in which they sought to have supporters ratify their signatures on petitions for an August presidential recall vote - likely their last chance to unseat the populist leader before he is up for reelection in 2006.

Carter said he had "found everything to be in order." He noted isolated incidents

of intimidation and technical problems but said they were "relatively minor and have not disturbed the overall process."

The Nobel Peace laureate's Atlanta-based Carter Center and the Organization of American States are monitoring the signature verification process. OAS Secretary-General Cesar Gaviria also met with Chavez on Sunday.

Venezuela's opposition needs to ratify 550,000 signatures. Activists say they delivered 3.4 million signatures in December, but elections officials validated only 1.9 million.

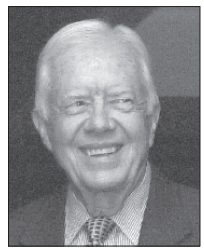
The elections council rejected nearly 400,000 signatures outright and ordered more than 1 million citizens to confirm

they signed - most because they allegedly allowed others to transcribe personal information on forms before adding their signatures.

Opposition leader Enrique Mendoza claimed more than 700,000 people ratified their signatures.

"We can assure that we have enough, absolutely enough signatures," Mendoza said.

But elections council director Jorge Rodriguez said Mendoza "clearly violated rules" by projecting results on national television. Rodriguez warned local TV networks could face unspecified sanctions if they broadcast such projections before the council releases official results next week.



Carter

Dutch honor US soldiers killed in WWII

MARGRATEN, Netherlands (AP)—Hundreds of Dutch and Americans gathered at the American Military Cemetery on Sunday to honor U.S. soldiers who died fighting to liberate the Netherlands from Germany in World War II.

It was the 60th anniversary memorial service for what the

United States' Dutch Ambassador Clifford Sobel called the "red spring and summer" of 1944.

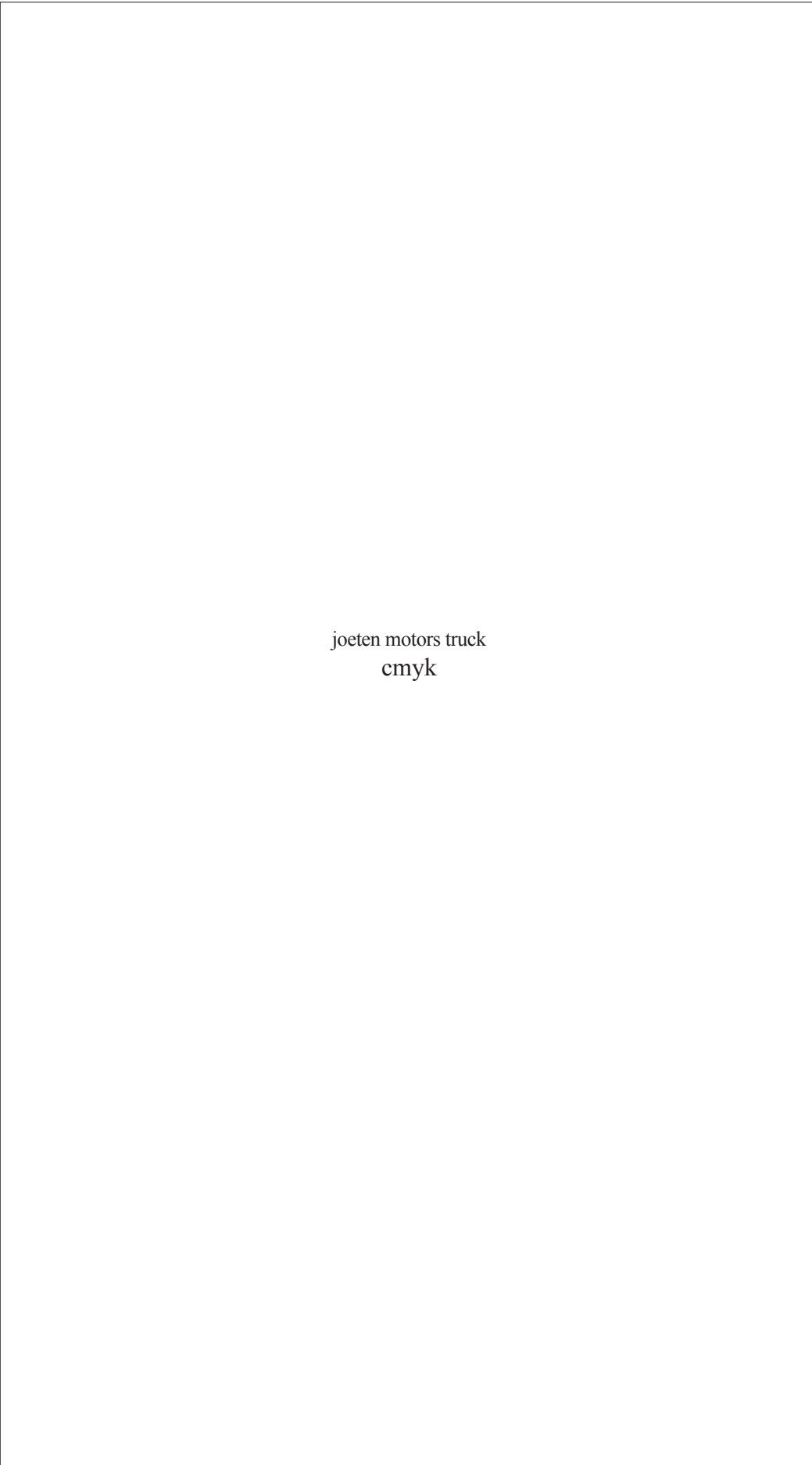
The only American cemetery in the Netherlands contains remains of soldiers who were killed in the fighting around Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem, as well as others killed during the allied push toward

Berlin and while flying bombing missions before D-Day.

The cemetery is located outside the Dutch town of Margraten, about six miles east of Maastricht. It holds the remains of 8,302 allied soldiers from all the U.S. states, as well as England, Canada and Mexico. Forty pairs of brothers are buried side by side.

Overdrive

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Life & Style

Experts: Beach manners often go unheeded



British tourists play on the beach with the remains of a floating bridge from World War II in the background in Arromanches-Les-Bains, France, Saturday, May 29, 2004.

AP

By JOHN CURRAN
AP WRITER

Looking for your place in the sun? Fine. Just don't lay your blanket too close to mine. And don't shake it out here, the sand's getting in my eyes.

And whatever you do, don't feed the gulls. Once you do, they'll stick around, squawking and flapping and—when nature calls—playing an icky version of beach blanket bingo.

When it comes to beach etiquette, there is a way to act and a way not to. Even the great outdoors has rules, it turns out. Problem is, they're mostly unwritten and often ignored.

"The beach is such an informal, relaxed kind of place," said etiquette expert Honore McDonough Ervin. "People who might normally have good manners, all good reason just flies out of their head and they do things that are offensive to others."

Some no-nos are explicitly listed on lifeguard stands or boardwalk signs: Alcoholic beverages, dogs, picnic lunches, ballplaying and Frisbee-throwing, for example, are banned on many beaches, although enforcement varies.

Others are obvious enough: not crowding other beachgoers, kick-

ing up sand around people, playing music loudly or leaving trash or cigarette butts.

"The cigarette butt is particularly offensive, not just because it's ugly, but because the filters—which are filled with contaminants—get into the food chain," said Cindy Zipf, executive director of Clean Ocean Action, an environmental group. "They look like small crabs or fish to gulls, and they get eaten."

The general rule: Leave nothing on the beach, except footprints.

Some taboos are less obvious. Digging deep holes in the sand and leaving them unfilled is discouraged, because they are a hazard to walkers.

Beach umbrellas, too, can be hazards when not adequately fastened.

"Flying umbrellas, that's my pet peeve," said Sally Custer, 53, of Flemington, sunning herself on a beach chair here one day last week. "I'm afraid of getting impaled. We've had some close calls."

Not keeping tabs on boisterous young children is rude, too, especially if they are kicking sand on or otherwise bothering other sunbathers, according to Ervin, co-author of the etiquette guide "Things You Need to Be Told."

"You should keep kids on a fairly tight leash, not just because they're bothering others but because of their own safety," Ervin said.

On beaches where crabs and sea anemones outnumber swimmers, environmentalists have a gentle reminder: No poking, prodding or removing the creatures from their natural setting.

Feeding sea gulls is another faux pas, one almost universally reviled by beach regulars.

"I hate it when people feed birds right next to you," said Dee Murphy, of Philadelphia, sitting under an umbrella on the beach in Atlantic City. "They bring food with them, intent on feeding the birds. Then they stop, and the birds just go to the next family, like they're saying, 'What've YOU got?'"

Dog droppings are a public enemy, too. While pooches are banned from most New Jersey beaches between May and September, there are owners who walk their dogs there and fail to clean up afterward.

It can make for an unpleasant surprise.

"It doesn't feel good getting feces through your toes," said Bob Levy, chief of the Atlantic City Beach Patrol.

Rude neighbors become even more problematic on crowded beaches, where someone's sunburned nose is more likely to be out of joint.

"We've had police have to break up groups (arguing) over kids throwing a ball, throwing sand, stepping on a towel on the way to the water," said Tony Cavalier, chief of the beach patrol in North Wildwood. "There's all kinds of things that happen."

All kinds, indeed.

One veteran Atlantic City lifeguard caught a couple having sex under a blanket in broad daylight.

"I didn't know what to do," said the guard, Rod Aluise. "Blow the whistle? Tap the guy on the shoulder? So I tap him and his head pokes out like 'What's the problem?'"

"We sent them off the beach," Aluise said.

That's bad manners. But if life's a beach, rude behavior is to be accepted.

"If they've been taught to be mindful of others growing up, they tend to be mindful when they're out on the beach or in the open generally," said Hilka Klinkenberg, founder of Etiquette International. "If they haven't, they don't suddenly become mindful people on the beach."

After age 40, wives seek 2 of 3 divorces

By CHAKA FERGUSON
AP WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Two-thirds of divorces after age 40 are initiated by wives, debunking the myth of an older man divorcing his wife for a younger woman, a new survey shows. "That obviously happens, but mostly it's women who are asking for the divorce," said Steve Slon, editor of AARP the Magazine, on Tuesday. The magazine will publish the results Thursday in its July-August issue.

"The Divorce Experience: A

Study of Divorce at Midlife and Beyond" surveyed 1,147 people ages 40 to 79 who had divorced in their 40s, 50s or 60s. The questionnaire survey, completed in December, had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The survey found that women over age 40 seemed more aware of problems in their marriages, while men were more likely to be caught off-guard by their divorces. Twenty-six percent of men said they "never saw it coming," compared with 14 percent of women.

The increase in women initiating a divorce reflects the empowerment of women to leave bad marriages, said Linda Fisher, AARP's director of national member research.

"Thirty years ago, many of these women might not have been able to (divorce) because of lack of self-confidence and financial means," she said. "Women are more likely to have more self-confidence and the means to leave a marriage when the circumstances are untenable."

The AARP study found that most women said they filed for

divorces because of physical or emotional abuse, infidelity or drug and alcohol abuse. Men said they sought divorces because they fell out love, they had different values or lifestyles or infidelity.

The report also found that most older divorced people move on to other serious relationships.

Seventy-five percent of women in their 50s reported enjoying serious, exclusive relationships after their divorces, often within two years. Eighty-one percent of men in their 50s did the same.

By JIM SHEA
The Hartford Courant



Breaking the news to beer: Another drink in his life

Beer, I want to call it quits. I want to break up.

There, I said it. It's out in the open.

I didn't plan for this to happen. I didn't think this day would ever come, but it has.

It's nobody's fault; people, potables, relationships just change over time.

And if it is any consolation, let me just say this:

It's not you; it's me.

You're great; you know you're great. You're interesting, you're refreshing, and certainly nobody can argue that you aren't a lot of fun to be with.

But it just wasn't working for me anymore.

It seemed like every time we got together these past few years, I'd spend half the night running back and forth to the bathroom.

That's no way to live.

Deep down, I think you knew something was wrong.

I was coming around the refrigerator less, not having as many, and I'm sure you noticed the warm, half-full bottles I was leaving around.

I know it hurts right now, but it's for the best.

So try and remember the good times.

We'll always have college and the beach and picnics and ball games and all of the occasions you made me laugh so hard, you came out of my nose.

I hope we can still be friends.

Is there someone else?

I have to be honest, there is:

Wine.

We met over dinner, had a few laughs. I guess you could say we hit it off right away.

Sure, wine is attractive, but it wasn't just an eye candy thing. It was more than just admiring its full body or its intoxicating bouquet.

Wine has depth, character, a social conscience.

Did you know that wine helps protect the body against such ailments as heart disease, ulcers, cancer and strokes?

Why, just the other day, a study came out that claims wine could be good for your skin.

You're laughing.

I know you think wine is out of my league, but it's not like that.

Sure, it has a reputation for being snobby, but once you get to know it, you see that it's a big vineyard out there, and there is a vintage for everybody. And if this doesn't work out, well, there's more than one grape in the vat.

Plans?

Yeah, we've talked about a few things, but nothing serious. I mean, I'm not planning to build a wine cellar or anything.

We have discussed going on a diet together, though. But I'm not sure drinking eight glasses of wine a day is the best way to lose weight.

Anyway, beer, old buddy, this breaking up with you is a lot harder than I thought it was going to be. I promised myself I wasn't going to become emotional like this.

I have to get out of here before I start to burp.

‘Shrek 2’ rakes in \$104.3M at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It’s a humongous “happily ever after” for “Shrek 2.” The computer-animated fairy tale satire collected an estimated \$104.3 million at the weekend box office, the second-biggest three-day tally in movie history behind 2002’s “Spider-Man,” which took in \$114.8 million.

“Shrek 2” also scored the biggest opening ever for an animated film, easily topping “Finding Nemo’s” \$70.2 million. “Shrek,” which opened in 2001, earned \$42.3 million in its first weekend—but went on to collect \$267.6 million and win the first Oscar for an animated feature film.



Shrek (Mike Myers) can't take it anymore in Dreamworks' "Shrek 2."

For the sequel, the grumpy green ogre collected \$28.4 million on Friday, and then jumped a remarkable 58 percent Saturday to earn \$44.8 million, according to Jim Tharp, head of distribution for DreamWorks.

Saturday’s earnings broke Hollywood’s overall record for highest one-day earnings, also held by “Spider-Man” with \$43.6 million.

DreamWorks estimated the movie would earn an additional \$31 million on Sunday—but even rival studios suggested the take would be higher than that. Final figures will be released Monday.

Last week’s No. 1 film, the Brad Pitt epic “Troy,” fell to second place in its second weekend, earning \$23.8 million for a total of \$85.8 million. The movie cost a reported \$200 million to make.

Meanwhile, third-place “Van Helsing” crossed the \$100 million mark with weekend earnings of \$10.1 million, and “Mean Girls” ranked fourth with \$6.9 million.

“Shrek 2” was cutting into everybody else’s audience,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations Co.

In the sequel, the title ogre (voiced by Mike Myers), his bride, Fiona (Cameron Diaz), and their pal Donkey (Eddie Murphy) visit Fiona’s royal parents in the kingdom of Far, Far Away.

Critics loved the movie, which appealed to young kids with colorful characters, teenagers with comedy, couples with romance, and older audiences with a subplot about parents accepting the decisions of their grown-up children.

“Shrek 2,” which opened Wednesday, screened in the largest number of opening theaters

ever—4,163 locations. It also brought in \$125.3 million over its first five days, breaking the record set by “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” which grossed \$124.1 million.

The sequel is a great victory for DreamWorks, which has occasionally struggled to find its footing in the animated movie market. The first “Shrek” was a success and the studio had a modest hit with 1998’s computer-animated “Antz,” but traditionally animated fare like “Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron,” “The Road to El Dorado” and “Sinbad: Legend of the Seven

Seas” were all money-losers.

“For us, this is really more about proving that we have a creative rhythm as a company,” said Ann Daly, head of animation for DreamWorks. “We found our tone and style.”

About 60 percent of the audience was comprised of parents and their children, Tharp said. Studio exit polling found that 70 percent of respondents wanted to see the movie again, which bodes well for the movie’s future in the competitive summer blockbuster season.

The weekend’s total box-office earnings were up about 2 percent from last year, when “The Matrix Reloaded” and “Daddy Day Care” topped the list.

Estimated ticket sales for

Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. “**Shrek 2**,” \$104.3 million.
2. “**Troy**,” \$23.8 million.
3. “**Van Helsing**,” \$10.1 million.
4. “**Mean Girls**,” \$6.9 million.
5. “**Man on Fire**,” \$3.5 million.
6. “**Breakin’ All the Rules**,” \$2.8 million.
7. “**13 Going on 30**,” \$2.5 million.
8. “**New York Minute**,” \$1.1 million.
9. “**Kill Bill - Vol. 2**,” \$1 million.
10. “**Super Size Me**,” \$953,455.

DeGeneres rebounds after career slump

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If Ellen DeGeneres is carrying heavy baggage these days, it’s only because she’s stuffed it with Emmys. Crowning a successful first season for “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” DeGeneres accepted the best talk show trophy at Friday’s Daytime Emmy Awards in New York.

Paratore said. Now he figures “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” can be added to the list.

It launched a year ago in TV markets covering 90 percent of the country, including NBC owned-and-operated stations, and wraps its first season Friday, although a few unaired shows will be scattered among the summer reruns.



DeGeneres

The syndicated series also received three Emmys for technical achievement, making it this year’s most-honored talk show.

Not bad for a woman who feared her career suffered permanent damage when she came out as a lesbian on “Ellen.” All it took was a family-friendly hit movie (“Finding Nemo”), an HBO special and the daytime show to give DeGeneres back what she wanted—humor without agenda.

“I’m a comedian. I want to make people laugh,” she said in a recent interview. “Somehow, I was viewed as political when I just want to be a comedian.”

Its total audience ratings are below that of blockbusters like top-rated Oprah Winfrey’s talk show, but it draws a hefty slice of advertiser-coveted viewers.

“It’s all about the demos,” said Paratore, using industry slang referring to the show’s largely 25-to-54-year-old demographic.

In negotiating the contract with a Cleveland station, for example, Paratore confidently predicted that 90 percent of viewers would be in that group. “You’re out of your mind,” the station executive replied.

But the numbers bore him out, Paratore said.

“The audience it reaches is the primo, upscale, soccer-mom target audience,” he said, adding the show is a must-buy for many advertisers.

When the show begins its second season Sept. 6, there will be clear signs of its popularity: It will be upgraded in 38 of the top 100 markets, getting better time slots or airing on a network affiliate instead of an independent station.

Tom Selleck, who co-starred with DeGeneres in 1999’s “The Love Letter” and was set to appear on her show Thursday, finds

that has marked her career.

But when Telepictures set out to sell her talk show, it found reluctance among some station owners and managers. “We knew there was baggage,” Paratore said, and concerns over controversy had to be addressed.

“In daytime, the audience doesn’t want to be preached at by anybody. They don’t want Oprah preaching spirituality or Rosie preaching politics or Ellen preaching lifestyle,” he said.

The station executives “needed to be shown that people would give me another chance,” DeGeneres said. The message she delivered: “You don’t know me, you know a perception of me” based on news reports.

She’s grateful viewers have responded to her show, which combines the usual celebrity interviews with a monologue, comic bits and much interaction with her studio and at-home audience.

After DeGeneres displayed a picture of her overweight cat, “suddenly people sent in pictures of their fat cats,” she said.

She continues on in her meandering, charmingly Ellenesque fashion: “Some of them we don’t even show because I feel like, ‘Oh, my God, this animal’s going to blow up in a second.’”

Despite the career rough patch, she “wouldn’t change one single thing that happened,” DeGeneres said.

“I feel like the success is even sweeter. I’m so grateful I have another chance. I can relax, and not have any secrets.”

wallace

Teens too old for foster care find help from many sources

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing regarding the letter you received from "Lost in Alabama," a former foster child who had lived in an emergency shelter for seven months before being placed in a foster home for the week before she turned 18. The girl was allowed to call the shelter for a short time before finally being asked not to call anymore and told to "move on with her life."

You wisely advised her to contact the YWCA. YWCA associations offer a variety of services, and many of them provide transitional housing programs. The girl from Alabama can learn about resources provided by her local YWCA by going to the Web site at www.ywca.org.

Since passage of the Foster Care Independence Act in 1999, more assistance is available to this population. This legislation allowed states to extend Medicaid coverage up to age 21; permits youth to save money while in care to prepare for independence without their assets counting against their eligibility for foster care funding; provides funding to states for initial and ongoing training of foster parents; and created the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. This program increased funding to states for independent living activities and offers increased assistance for room and board.

Youth should contact their state's foster care system to get more information about resources. If they have trouble navigating the system, the Child Welfare League of America may be able to assist: www.cwla.org.

KELLY BELL-McGLOTHAN, YWCA OF FORT WORTH/TARRANT COUNTY

DEAR KELLY: Since that letter ran, I have been told that nearly 25,000 young people "age out" of the foster care system each year—and few, if any of them, have the necessary skills to live on their own. I congratulate you for the work you are doing with this underserved population. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Lost" and all other teens in foster care should reach out and ask for help. They don't have to wait until they are 18 to do it. Teens in foster care need adults to step forward and help them reach their goals.

Agencies that can refer young people to help in their local communities include the local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) programs and Foster Parent Associations. A good online resource is Foster Club (www.fosterclub.com). Casey Family Programs also has a set of self-directed planning tools for youth at its Web site: www.casey.org/Resources/Tools/CaseyLifeSkills.htm.

JANIS AVERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TREEHOUSE, SEATTLE

DEAR JANIS: Thank you for sharing these valuable resources. Several other caring readers also pointed out that Job Corps helps youth between the ages of 16 and 24. Young people can live on-site for up to two years while working on their education and job-training skills. They receive free room, board, medical and dental care in addition to counseling and a small stipend. The Web site is www.jobcorps.org and the toll-free number is (800) 733-5627.

Additional resources for young people in need of assistance include Catholic Charities and the Orphan Foundation of America, which also helps youth in the foster care system. The Orphan Foundation can be reached at www.orphan.org or by calling (571) 203-0270.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

'Party of Five' actor Scott Wolf marries

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Actor Scott Wolf of the former Fox hit "Party of Five" has tied the knot with Kelley Limp, a former cast member of MTV's "The Real World."

The two exchanged vows in a traditional wedding ceremony Saturday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, Limp's hometown.

"We felt like we just got surrounded by this community of friends," said Wolf, 35.

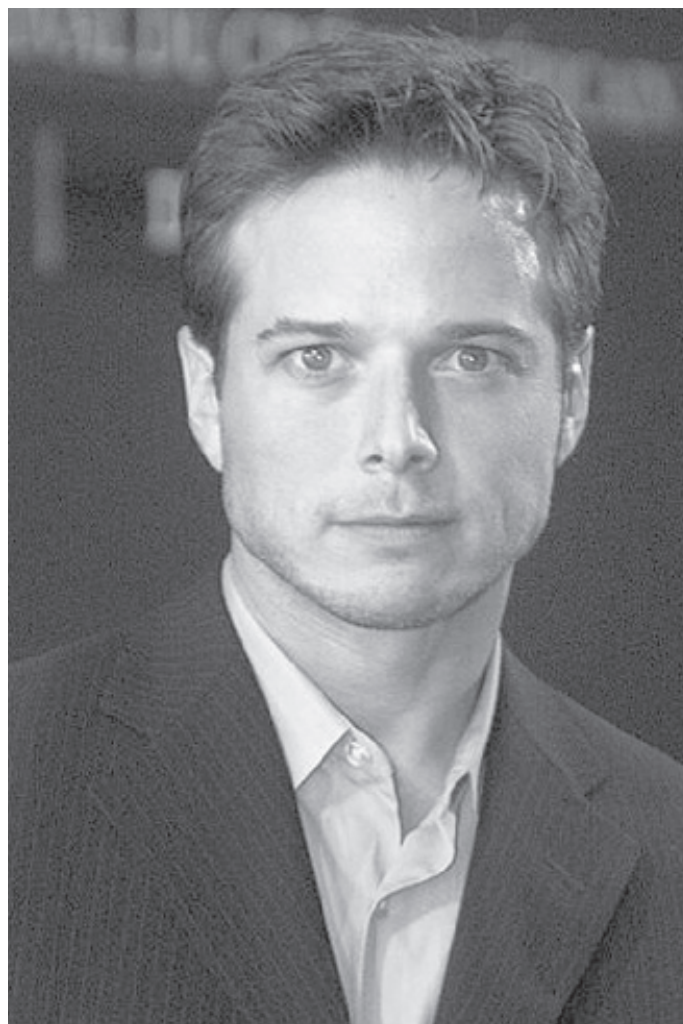
"It's Fayetteville," Limp added. "It's how it works here."

Limp, 27, now works in television marketing in Los Angeles. She joined "The Real World: New Orleans" in the spring of 2000.

The couple met through an unnamed mutual friend in New York City, they said. The newlyweds plan to live in Santa Monica, Calif., after a honeymoon in Africa.

American actor Scott Wolf poses for photographers at Deauville's American Film Festival, in this Sept. 6, 2002 file photo in Deauville, western France.

AP



Younger Simpson sister set to take off

Those Simpson sisters continue to confound pop culture. First, Jessica Simpson turns her ditzzy-blond act into a hit TV show into a multimillion-dollar empire.

Her younger sis, Ashlee, the "7th Heaven" actress with "Meet Ashlee," an MTV real-

ity series of her own, coming this summer, is now ready to emerge as a singer. And Ashlee's debut single "Pieces of Me" (Geffen) rocks harder than one would expect. Her voice is Suzanne Vega smooth, with a bit of Debbie Harry edge -- a great combination for a catchy

pop-rock song that Simpson cowrote with Sugar Ray drummer Stan Frazier.

The result is a sing-along track that is way cooler than Avril Lavigne and will, no doubt, kick off the Ashlee onslaught of the summer. You have been warned. (*Newsday*)

Burbank post office dedicated to Hope

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Burbank officials dedicated the downtown post office to Bob Hope on Saturday—what would have been his 101st birthday.

Longtime publicist Ward Grant said Hope had lots of jokes about post offices, including one that spoofed his own age.

"He would have said, 'When I was a child, I used to collect postage stamps. I had all nine of them,'" Grant said.

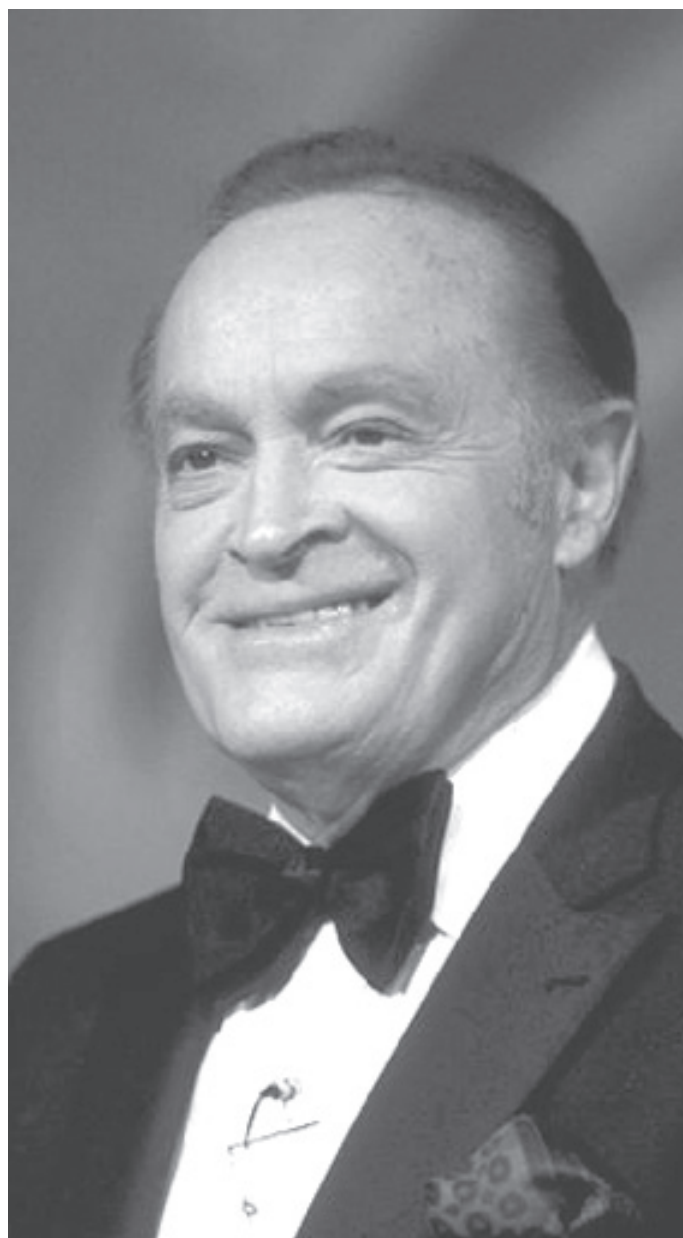
As part of the dedication ceremony, Hope's wife Dolores, now 95, sang two bars of the song, "I'm Going to Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter."

The post office is also honoring the comedian by using the profile of his famous ski-jump nose for a cancellation stamp to mark used postage.

Hope died of pneumonia on July 27, 2003.

Comedian Bob Hope smiles in this 1982 photo.

AP



Hollywood High School celebrates 100 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It wouldn't be a reunion at Hollywood High School without a few TV stars, and this week's bash celebrating the school's 100th anniversary was no exception.

"I got my first agent here. She saw me in a play," recalled actress Charlene Tilton, who played oil heiress Lucy Ewing on the long-running TV show "Dallas."

Tilton was a member of Hollywood High's class of 1976 and among those at Saturday's event.

Veteran actress Ruta Lee said her mother, a Lithuanian immigrant to Canada, helped launch her career by sending her to the school.

"My mother decided that I was Lithuania's answer to Shirley Temple, and so I ended up here," she said. "I wrote, produced and starred in shows here."

Others who picked up a pointer or two over the years at the school include Judy Garland, Fay Wray, Carole Lombard, Carol Burnett, Jason Roberts, John Ritter, Julie London, Tuesday Weld, Linda Evans, Mike Farrell, Stefanie Powers and Robert Carradine.

"We all worked at Central Casting," said Dolly Conlin Parker, a member of the class of '44 who got into the business while still in high school. "My first movie was 'Tom Sawyer,' and we filmed it in Malibu," said Parker. "I also drove a buggy away from the burning of Atlanta in 'Gone With the Wind.'"

LaBelle attends HIV/AIDS event

LaBelle attends HIV/AIDS event

TORONTO (AP)—Patti LaBelle and supermodel Linda Evangelista brought their star power to one of the glitziest parties of the year as thousands gathered for the 2004 Fashion Cares event.

LaBelle was the featured performer at the 18th annual HIV/AIDS benefit held Saturday night. Evangelista hosted the runway show.

"It's so great to finally do something here in my homeland," Evangelista told The Canadian Press at a news conference before the event.

LaBelle, 60, came out on stage for her evening concert wearing a light blue fringed dress with an elaborate, bejewelled headdress with feathers cascading down her back.

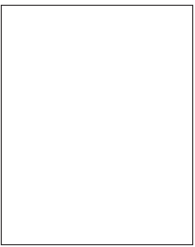
After singing her opening song, LaBelle addressed the crowd—estimated at 5,600—telling them she cares about the cause.

"And you know I must really care if I put this hat on my head," she joked.



Tilton

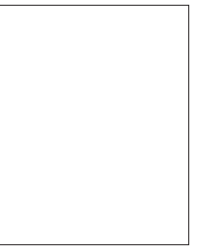
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